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PAGE 16

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Sports pg 21

Ryan Kennedy on Schenn's place with the Leafs

Loonie dives to below 80 cents US

DECLINE The Canadian dollar fell another three per cent yesterday against the U.S. greenback, to close at 79.70 cents US, its lowest level since 2005.

The drop came as oil staged another hefty fall, contributing to another punishing drop in stocks.

In theory, the dollar's tumble should help Canada's exporters by making goods cheaper to sell in foreign markets, but with a global recession looming, exporters fear they may have trouble finding customers at any price.

"Many companies are reporting new orders are falling right off," said Jay Myers, president of the Canadian Manufacturers and Exports, adding the global credit crisis has made it tougher for customers to finance new orders. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ontario Finance Minister Dwight Duncan pauses at a media conference following his economic update statement to the legislature yesterday. Duncan said even the falling loonie won't be much help to the province, which is facing a $500-million deficit.

Ontario in red by $500M: Duncan

Minister warns hospitals, schools to expect less funding

Forced into a $500-million deficit by worldwide economic chaos, the Ontario government is scaling back spending this year and signalling that harder times loom in next spring's budget.

Finance Minister Dwight Duncan revealed the shortfall for this fiscal year yesterday, and warned cities, hospitals, school boards and universities to brace for lower than expected funding come April, when the new fiscal year begins.

Duncan gave Ontarians a glimpse of the coming austerity by announcing a delay in the hiring of 9,000 nurses as one part of $108 million in belt-tightening measures for this fiscal year.

"The downturn in the U.S. economy will be deeper and longer than anyone expected and that will have obvious impacts for Ontario," Duncan said, adding declines in the value of the loonie won't help much.

The downturn is why critics were expecting help for the poor and the 240,000 manufacturing and forestry workers who lost their jobs over the past four years.

"People in tough times need leadership from the government" said NDP Leader Howard Hampton, adding Duncan's message yesterday was that workers were "on your own."

Premier Dalton McGuinty said a poverty-reduction plan is coming in December.

Meanwhile, Progressive Conservative Leader John Tory predicted Duncan is setting the stage for a bad-news budget in March because the Liberals couldn't curb spending during boom times. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Where money is not coming from

The Liberals will use up last year's $600-million surplus plus run a deficit as they expect:

- $880 million less in corporate taxes as a result of the global business slump;
- $180 million less in land transfer tax revenue from declining home sales;
- $65 million less in gas taxes due to slumping gas sales as a result of higher prices.

Campaign dressed Palin for success?

REPUBLICAN Dressing up the self-styled hockey mom cost the Republican National Committee more than $150,000.

Small potatoes in a big election, Republican officials said, after trips to Saks Fifth Avenue in New York and St. Louis and Neiman Marcus in Minneapolis for its vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin were uncovered by politico.com.

Sarah Palin

That may be, but the revelation capped a tough 24 hours for a prospective vice-president.

Not only does the shopping spree not square with a candidate seeking the Wal-Mart vote, Palin flubbed a question from a third grader, posed by a Colorado television reporter, on the role of the vice-president.

There were published reports Palin charged Alaska taxpayers more than $21,000 for air fare and accommodation so her children could travel with her to events, some to which they were not invited.

A poll by NBC and The Wall Street Journal released Tuesday showed, of the four people on presidential tickets, Palin was viewed most negatively and her negative rating has worsened by 20 percentage points since being chosen by Republican presidential candidate John McCain. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

MORE COVERAGE, P. 10

Style pg 39

Fashion Week gets flowing on Day 2

Also, check out an exclusive report from Afiya Francisco, Lou Lou magazine's Toronto editor, at metronews.ca/style

Metro Homes pg 29

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Security guard shot with pellet gun
A 50-year-old security guard was shot in the face with a pellet gun during a robbery at about 1 a.m. yesterday by a man who entered a highrise near Eglinton Avenue West and Jane Street and demanded money. He fled after shooting the guard. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Woman spoke to Barrie boy

A woman has come forward saying she spoke with Brandon Crisp on Oct. 13 — the day the 15-year-old boy went missing after an argument with his parents — and noticed he was having trouble with his bike, police in Barrie confirmed yesterday. Police found the abandoned bicycle Monday in a ditch northeast of the city in the Shanty Bay area.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tomorrow's Metro

Movies

Read a review of the Edward Norton and Colin Farrell cop drama Pride and Glory.

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Read our exclusive report from Toronto Fashion Week at metronews.ca/style
Watch a report on the loonie's plunge at metronews.ca/canada

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49 8, 9, 12, 20, 42 & 45. Bonus 39; **Ontario 49** 2, 7, 25, 29, 46 & 47. Bonus 23; **Ontario Pick 3** 0 3 7; **Ontario Pick 4** 0 8 5 9; **Encore** 9871294; **Daily Keno** 7, 8, 9, 15, 17, 21, 24, 25, 26, 31, 33, 37, 44, 47, 52, 53, 55, 58, 64, 65. These results are not official.

Stabbing accused held

Sunita Dharamdial, her eyes filling with tears, yesterday stared at the young boy accused of murdering her son.

The boy standing in the prisoner's box inside a Brampton courtroom was not much older than her 14-year-old son, Rajiv.

"It felt worse than when I put my son in his coffin," she said afterwards.

"It felt worse than when I put my son in his coffin." Sunita Dharamdial

The accused, a 15-year-old boy, has been charged with first-degree murder in the death of Rajiv, often called Ravi, last Tuesday.

The Grade 9 student was attacked and stabbed multiple times as he walked home from school.

Based on the charge, Peel homicide detectives believe the slaying was planned and pre-meditated. Family members haven't been told what the police think was behind the deadly attack — the $90 Rajiv had in his knapsack wasn't taken.

Although police are revealing little about what led to the arrests, Rajiv's family said they were told the accused teen was arrested at his home after being awoken yesterday at about 7:15 a.m.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Band of 7 suspected of store thefts

They are accused of creating diversions at big-box stores across southern Ontario to abscond with thousands of dollars worth of liquor, bubble gum and hand lotion.

Police call this alleged band of seven "the family" — not because they're related but because they live near each other and are suspected of working as a co-ordinated team to make off with merchandise in heavily pocketed coats lined with foil to stymie shoplifting detectors.

Andrea Coombs, 38; Colbert Charles, 41; James McCaa, 54; Allan Brody, 39; and Kathleen Barry, 39; all of Toronto, face theft-related charges. Karlene Alexander and Brett Cutajar are still at large.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Design Council head apologizes

FASHION The woman behind the city's biggest fashion event has apologized for delivering a speech while inebriated that overshadowed the launch of Fashion Week.

"I was exhausted and I didn't realize what was happening to me," said Robin Kay, president of the Fashion Design Council of Canada. She admitted she had had too much to drink.

Just before the Mango fashion show, Kay was called up to welcome guests and sponsors in Nathan Phillips Square. Instead, she delivered a rambling, incomprehensible address.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bumper crop **Cool summer perfect for pumpkins**

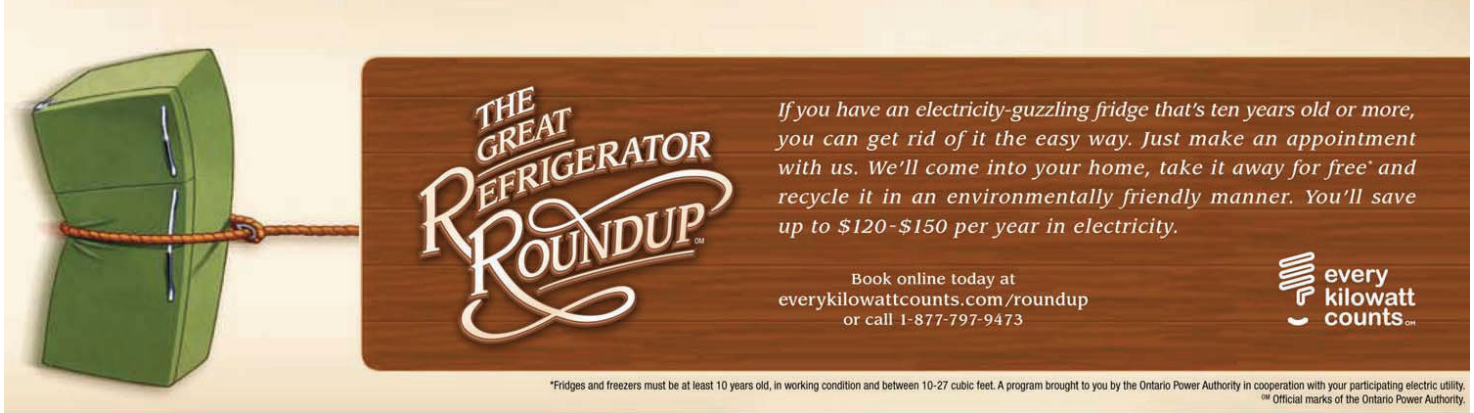
JIM WILKES/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Four-year-old Randeep Atwal of Brampton chooses a pumpkin on a school trip to Downey's Farm Market on Heart Lake Road in rural Inglewood. A cool, soggy summer has produced a bumper crop of the orange autumn gourds that signal the long, downhill slide to winter.

News in brief

TRIAL Health authorities have tried to trace 20 women believed to be at risk from having unprotected sex with HIV patient Johnson Aziga, who is now on trial for murder and sexual assault, court was told yesterday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Milton school locked down

E.C. Drury High School in Milton was locked down yesterday after a student was shot with a BB gun or air pistol. The 17-year-old victim suffered only minor injuries and did not require hospitalization. Police have arrested a 16-year-old student in connection with the shooting. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Creba scene recounted

A blue-purple purse and a pool of blood nearby.

Those were just two of the items that Toronto forensics Det. John Davidson meticulously catalogued on Dec. 26, 2005, in front of the Foot Locker on Yonge Street, where hours earlier Jane Creba was killed in a brazen gunfight.

The 15-year-old Riverdale Collegiate student had been across the street in Sam the Record Man, shopping with her sister, Alison.

Carrying Alison's purse, she left to use the washroom at a Pizza Pizza, just steps from the Foot Locker, court has heard.

As he testified at the trial of a young man accused of murdering Jane Creba yesterday, Davidson did not say whether the purse, lying on the street by the curb, was Alison's, or whether the blood nearby was Jane's.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

This is one of eight shell casings found at the scene from the 2005 Boxing Day killing of Jane Creba on Yonge Street.

On a large flat TV screen, prosecutor Kerry Hughes presented photo after photo of the scene taken hours after Creba was shot at 5:19 p.m.

Davidson described each photo.

He identified a picture of the bullet that killed the Grade 10 student, recovered from the operating room.

Davidson also removed from a box the 9 mm semi-automatic Ruger handgun found on J.S.R., the 20-year-old accused of second-degree murder in Creba's death.

The black and silver pistol is not the gun that killed Creba, but it can be traced to seven of eight shell casings and two of four bullets at the scene, Hughes alleges.

The jury also saw photos taken by the security camera housed in a taxi that J.S.R. hailed after the shooting. They showed the accused, looking tense, a black bandana tied on his head under a baseball cap, talking on his cellphone or leaning forward to apparently give the driver orders.

J.S.R. is also charged with the attempted murder of six other people, wounded in the melee. He cannot be named because he was 17 at the time.

The trial continues today. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Groundbreaking project for Jewish, Muslim groups

TAGHREED SAADEH
for Metro Toronto

Canada's largest Jewish and Muslim community organizations are joining together in a groundbreaking partnership on Oct. 28. The Jewish-Somali project will engage the resources of the Jewish community to provide mentorship to young Somali professionals, in the first of a series of collaborative ventures under the auspices of the Canadian International Peace Project.

As a reciprocal gesture, the Somali community will respond by creating a scholarship fund for Jewish students.

This large-scale initiative presents a new paradigm for the forging of substantive relationships between members of Canada's diverse communities, and will serve as a model for future projects and partnerships.

The launch of this project will be held at Kipling Collegiate Institute, recently listed as one of "Canada's Top 10 Extraordinary High Schools" by Maclean's magazine, and recognized by the Toronto Star for its peace building initiatives.

Where and when

- Date: Tuesday, Oct. 28
- Time: 10 a.m., panel discussion; 10:30 a.m., question session
- Location: Kipling Collegiate Institute, 380 The Westway (Kipling Avenue and The Westway)

This is the first comprehensive project of its kind in Canada, in which the Canadian Jewish community and a large Muslim community are working together. The project duration is three years and will continue subject to available funding.

Through this initiative, the Somali-Canadian community will raise funds to establish scholarships for one or more Canadian Jewish students annually as an expression of appreciation for the assistance offered by the Canadian Jewish community.

News in brief

TIRES A surprise snowfall this week and a possible shortage have automotive insiders advising motorists to buy snow tires earlier than usual. Some tire dealers say they're expecting to run out of certain sizes and makes of winter tires in Ontario because Quebec, which is making snow tires mandatory this year, is sucking up much of the Canadian supply. Add to that memories of last year's heavy snowfall and some motorists are going to have a hard time buying the tires they want if they wait for the first real winter wallop. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Community Housing

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General Manager of the New York City Housing Authority

Friday, October 24, 2008
7:00pm - 9:00pm

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Public Meetings

Draft Regional Transportation Plan and Investment Strategy

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Metrolinx, an agency of the Government of Ontario, is hosting a series of Public Meetings to present its Draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Investment Strategy (IS).

Open Houses will be held from 5 - 7 p.m. at the following locations in advance of the Public Meetings. Public Meetings will follow from 7- 9 p.m.

October 20, 2008	Richmond Hill	Premiere Convention Centre, 9019 Leslie Street
October 21, 2008	Mississauga	International Centre, 6900 Airport Road, Aviation Ballroom B & C (Hall 5 Entrance)
October 22, 2008	Toronto	Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 255 Front Street West, North Building
October 27, 2008	Toronto	Parc Downsview Park, 40 Carl Hall Road Studios
October 28, 2008	Whitby	Heydenshore Pavilion, 589 Water Street
October 29, 2008	Oakville	Halton Regional Centre/Woodlands Operation Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Auditorium
October 30, 2008	Hamilton	Hamilton Convention Centre, 1 Summers Lane, Webster ABC

To register for a Public Meeting, please visit our website at www.metrolinx.com or call 1-866-658-9890 (416-406-0489 for local calls). Join us and get involved.

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toronto hydro electric system

E.coli cases spike

The number of suspected cases in an E. coli outbreak stemming from a Harvey's restaurant in North Bay, Ont., has jumped dramatically. Health officials said yesterday there are a total of 190 cases. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Canada

Gates' grand challenge

Six Canadian research teams are among 104 international scientists that will receive $100,000 grants through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to explore innovative approaches to solving tough public health problems.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Health promises on hold

Palliative care nurse Catherine Mayers heard Premier Dalton McGuinty say the Liberal government will deliver on a promise to hire 9,000 nurses to help shore up the health system this past April when he spoke to an annual meeting of nurses.

Now that promise, along with the rollout of an additional 50 family health teams, is on hold because of shrinking government revenues and a fiscal crisis that has forced the Ontario government to run a $500 million budget deficit this year.

"We are completely disappointed," said Mayers from the 16th floor of the University Health Network's Princess Margaret Hospital. "We need these 9,000 nurses now."

LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Princess Margaret Hospital nurse, Catherine Mayers, poses outside of the hospital after Finance Minister Dwight Duncan announced the delay of the hiring of 900 nurses in Ontario.

The slow-down in healthcare spending is billed as a restraint initiative by the Ontario government. Delaying the hiring of 9,000 nurses saves $50 million in 2008-2009 and deferring the addition of 50 family health teams by one year saves $3 million.

"This is clearly a step backwards in the treatment of our ailing health system," she added.

She said not hiring full-time nurses means more contract nurses are hired to fill the positions, and no full-time jobs mean new nursing graduates will go elsewhere for work.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Postal rates for envelopes used by online shoppers going up

Canada Post plans to cash in on online shopping with a 100-per-cent hike in postage rates for thick envelopes widely used to ship Internet purchases.

Canada Post also intends to increase the cost of a basic letter stamp by two cents to 54 cents next January — above the limit that would otherwise be set by a regulated formula.

Canada Post blames the price hikes on costly decisions by the Conservative government in 2006 to maintain existing levels of rural mail delivery and to continue a postal subsidy for magazines and periodicals. It also blames higher fuel prices.

But the proposals, which must still be approved by cabinet, are drawing criticism from all sides.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business, already upset over automatic postal price hikes every year, opposes the additional penny in the stamp price. Officials say the service is not dependable. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

News in brief

POVERTY While it announced cuts to other services, the Ontario Liberal government says it plans to move ahead on its anti-poverty agenda, despite the dire economic outlook.

RACE New Brunswick MP Dominic LeBlanc looks certain to run for the Liberal leadership as does former New Brunswick Premier Frank McKenna.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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BEAUTY *at the Bay*

Premier goes offline
In his latest attempt to warm up to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams quietly took down AnythingButConservative.ca, a website encouraging Canadians to vote for any party but the Tories during the past election. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Bid-rigging case in court

The civil trial into sensational allegations of corruption at the Ontario government's real estate arm finally opened yesterday after more than eight years with revelations of an elaborate bid rigging and forgery scheme near Toronto.

Ivan Sirman, an environmental services consultant, told a court that an official at Ontario Realty Corp. asked him to prepare two or three competing bids in addition to his own proposal for a supervisory contract on a cleanup project in the Pickering-Markham area in 1999.

"They were all bids I fabricated."
Ivan Sirman, environmental services consultant

Sirman said government policy called for competing offers on cleanup contracts, but the ORC didn't follow it.

"I was asked, 'Can you make a few other bids,'" he said about the request from Ross Farewell, an ORC environmental co-ordinator.

Sirman, who operated Oshawa-based Sirman and Associates, said he proceeded to concoct two other phony bids and the government awarded him the supervisory contract for about $80,000.

But Sirman said it wasn't the first time a government official had advised him to send in multiple bids with forged signatures along with his own offer.

"When I came to this project, I was already moulded in that."

On the actual environmental cleanup on the same project, Sirman said he also crafted phony bids from five or six different companies.

Sirman said he took invoice letterheads of excavation companies he used in the past and forged signatures of officials.

"They were all bids I fabricated," said Sirman, who pleaded guilty to criminal charges.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Delay nixed in Khadr trial

KHADR There are 12 days until the U.S. presidential election and three months until the White House is inhabited by a leader who has vowed to close the Guantanamo Bay prison.

The question now is, when will Canadian prisoner Omar Khadr go to trial? Yesterday, judge Army Col. Patrick Parrish denied a request by Khadr's lawyers for an "indefinite delay," saying he would decide this week whether to postpone the proposed Nov. 10 trial start date.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The charges

- Three years ago, Khadr was charged with five war crimes, including murder, for the death of a U.S. sergeant during a fire fight in Afghanistan in 2001.

Woman charged with murder to be tried by judge and jury

COURT Peggy Boudreau, a Nova Scotia woman on trial for first-degree murder, will be tried by judge and jury in the Supreme Court.

Her lawyer, Paul Scovil, waived her right to a preliminary inquiry in Bridgewater, N.S., provincial court yesterday.

Boudreau is being held in a Dartmouth jail.

She was not present as her lawyer waived her right.

Boudreau is charged with the first-degree murder of her 12-year-old daughter Karissa.

Karissa's body was discovered Feb. 9 on the banks of the Lahave River. Lawyers will set a date for the trial on Dec. 4.

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Fishing boat with crew of 11 missing off Alaska, coast guard says

The U.S. Coast Guard says a fish processing boat with 11 crew members on board is missing off Alaska's Aleutian Islands. The military says all that searchers had found by noon yesterday were two empty survival suits and a partially deflated life raft. There were no signs of the boat or crew members. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Branson goes for sailing record

British billionaire Sir Richard Branson and his two children set out from New York with a crew of champion sailors early yesterday on a 30-metre racing yacht. They hope to break the record for a trans-Atlantic crossing in a single-hulled sailboat by making it to southwest England in less than six days. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALEX BRANDON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAROLYN KASTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An Associated Press-GfK poll puts Democrat Barack Obama at 44 per cent and Republican John McCain at 43 per cent among likely voters in the Nov. 4 U.S. presidential election.

Rivals in dead heat: Poll

The U.S. presidential race tightened after the final debate, with John McCain gaining among whites and people earning less than $50,000, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll that shows McCain and Barack Obama essentially running even among likely voters in the election homestretch.

The poll, which found Obama at 44 per cent and McCain at 43 per cent, supports what some Republicans and Democrats privately have said in recent days: That the race narrowed after the third debate as Republican-leaning voters drifted home to their party and McCain's "Joe the plumber" analogy struck a chord.

Three weeks ago, an AP-GfK survey found that Obama had surged to a seven-point lead over McCain, lifted by voters who thought the Democrat was better suited to lead the country through its sudden economic crisis.

The new AP-GfK head-to-head result is a departure from some, but not all, recent national polls.

Obama and McCain were essentially tied among likely voters in the latest George Washington University Battleground Poll, conducted by Republican strategist Ed Goeas and Democratic pollster Celinda Lake.

In other surveys focusing on likely voters, a Washington Post-ABC News poll showed Obama up by nine percentage points, while a poll by the nonpartisan Pew Research Center had Obama leading by 14.

A Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll, among the broader category of people registered to vote, found Obama ahead by 10 points.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The science of polling

- Polls are snapshots of highly fluid campaigns. In this case, there is a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points; that means Obama could be ahead by as many as eight points or down by as many as six.
- There are many reasons why polls differ, including methods of estimating likely voters and the wording of questions.

Republicans spent $150,000 in donations on Palin's look

ELECTION When the Republican party decided to coordinate expenses with John McCain's presidential campaign, who knew it would be colour co-ordinated.

The Republican National Committee spent about $150,000 US on clothing, hair styling, makeup and other "campaign accessories" in September for the McCain campaign after Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin joined the ticket as his running mate.

"It was always the intent that the clothing go to a charitable purpose after the campaign."
Tracey Schmitt

The committee now says the clothes belong to the party committee while the McCain campaign says the clothing will go to a "charitable purpose" after the campaign.

The expenses include $75,062 spent at Neiman Marcus in Minneapolis and $41,850 in St. Louis in early September.

The committee also reported spending $4,100 for makeup and hair consulting.

The expenses were first reported by Politico.com.

The RNC also spent $4,902 at Atelier, a stylish men's clothing store in New York.

"With all of the important issues facing the country right now, it's remarkable that we're spending time talking about pantsuits and blouses," said McCain spokeswoman Tracey Schmitt.

"It was always the intent that the clothing go to a charitable purpose after the campaign."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghan army defends city from attack by Taliban

BATTLE The Afghan National Army has declared victory in defending a southern city from an attempted Taliban takeover after days of heavy fighting that tested the mettle of an Afghan battalion under Canadian mentorship.

"We defeated the enemy very badly."
Gen. Sher Muhammad Zazai

"The enemy tried to occupy Lashkar Gah, but Afghan forces have defeated them very well, which perhaps they were not expecting," Afghan Gen. Sher Muhammad Zazai said through a translator yesterday. "We defeated the enemy very badly."

The fighting in Lashkar Gah, capital of Helmand province, began about 10 days ago when hundreds of Taliban militants attacked the city from three sides.

Later, Afghan and international troops retook the Nad Ali district centre, which had been held by insurgents, after a three-day fight. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

FOOD SAFETY China must urgently reform its food safety system to increase oversight and hold businesses responsible for their products, United Nations officials said yesterday. The call, issued along with a UN report on China's food safety, comes as China is dealing with a scandal over melamine-tainted milk that has sickened tens of thousands of children and been blamed in the deaths of four infants.

MILITARY DOGS A new $15-million veterinary hospital for four-legged military personnel has opened at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, offering a long overdue facility that gives advanced medical treatment for combat-wounded dogs. Some 2,500 dogs are working with military units. Like soldiers and Marines in combat, military dogs suffer from war wounds and routine health issues that need to be treated to ensure they can continue working.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Two small planes collide in flight over Colorado

Two small planes carrying a total of six people collided in the air in western Colorado yesterday, but amazingly both landed safely and no injuries were reported. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thai PM flees protesters

Thailand's prime minister was forced to flee one of his own government ministries yesterday as protesters demanding his resignation taunted him, tossing sandals and plastic bottles at his entourage.

Security officials hustled Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat though a mob of 100 to 200 demonstrators a day after a Thai court convicted the country's former leader, Thaksin Shinawatra, of violating a conflict of interest law when he was in office from 2001 to 2006.

Ousted by a 2006 military coup, Thaksin is reviled by protesters from the People's Alliance for Democracy, who claim his administration was characterized by massive corruption and abuse of power.

The protesters regard Somchai, who is Thaksin's brother-in-law, as a mere puppet, and accuse him of trying to amend the constitution to help clear Thaksin, who fled to self-imposed exile in Britain before the court handed down its decision.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraq **Scraping by on garbage**

AHMED AL-HUSSAINEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An Iraqi woman searches for recyclable materials yesterday at a dump in Karbala, 80 kilometres south of Baghdad, Iraq. About 50 families displaced from Baghdad live on this dump and make a living by selling recyclable materials.

Britain approves use of hybrid embryos in research

SCIENCE British legislators have approved plans to allow scientists to use hybrid animal-human embryos for stem cell research.

Laws that allow the screening of embryos so parents can produce babies genetically matched to sick siblings have also been clarified.

The vote followed months of debate that pitted the government and scientists against religious leaders, anti-abortion campaigners and anxious others. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

FIRE At least 40 hectares have burned in a wildfire that broke out yesterday morning amid hot and gusty weather in San Bernardino County, east of Los Angeles. People in about 100 homes near a Buddhist temple have been told they may want to evacuate but are not being ordered to do so, Assistant San Bernardino County Fire Marshall Mike Horton told KABC-TV.

ALLEGATIONS Harrods owner Mohamed Al Fayed has been questioned by police over allegations that he sexually assaulted a 15-year-old girl at his flagship central London department store, his spokeswoman said yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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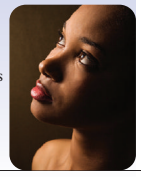

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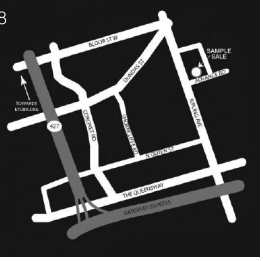

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Comment & Views

Comment

Critical time for Liberals

Party has strong contenders to choose from to replace Dion

Home&Abroad

Andrew Cohen

Canada & world insight

Conventional wisdom holds that the Liberal Party of Canada, post-election, will sink into a long season of despair, division and decline. Not so fast.

It won't help that the proud Stéphane Dion — who did not deserve the character assassination he has stoically endured — will stay on until a leadership convention. It means he will be hit by friendly fire as his successors rush to distance themselves from his leadership and his losing policies, such as the Green Shift.

But the good news for the Liberals is that they have strong contenders, as strong as they have had since 1968, when they chose Pierre Trudeau, or since 1984, when they chose John Turner.

Unlike the coronations of 1990 and 2003, which produced Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin on the first ballot, this contest will be more open.

"But the good news for the Liberals is that they have strong contenders, as strong as they have had since 1968, when they chose Pierre Trudeau, or since 1984, when they chose John Turner."

For a party desperate to renew itself, this is critical. The more candidates, the broader the process. For what this can mean for democracy, see Barack Obama.

This time, the field will be broader and deeper than in 2006. That's because the leading contenders are stronger.

Michael Ignatieff, the front-runner last time, has sat in Parliament since February 2006. As deputy leader, he has performed with style and eloquence. If the rap against him was political inexperience, it is no longer.

Bob Rae, his rival, has run and won a seat as a Liberal. The rap against him is that he was a New Democrat who was an ineffective premier of deficit-ridden Ontario. He cannot erase his past — the Conservatives won't let him — but he will run as someone who is as effective in opposition as in power.

John Manley and Frank McKenna, should they run, bring the quality of elder statesmen, yet are young enough to renew the party. Both have name recognition and can raise money.

All are bilingual, experienced, serious players. Stephen Harper, take note.

The rest of the field? Gerard Kennedy and Martha Hall Findlay may run again, though other than having been elected, neither appears stronger than two years ago. Dominique LeBlanc may run, and so might Denis Coderre, but it's not a francophone's turn this time.

Of course, the Liberal malaise runs deeper than leadership. They need money, ideas and reorganization. Contrary to popular belief, though, this party is not over.

Andrew Cohen, a professor and journalist, is the author of Extraordinary Canadians: Lester B. Pearson.

Views

Mr. PM: More women needed in cabinet

By DONNA DASKO

With modest gains in last week's federal election, women finally shattered the glass ceiling (or is that floor?) of 21 per cent set during the previous three elections.

But this isn't exactly a breakthrough — our new Parliament is still only 22 per cent female, with 68 women elected, up from 64 in 2006. Canada now moves from the 51st country in the world for female representation to around 46th, while counties such as Sweden, Argentina, Spain, Rwanda and 41 other countries have more women in their national parliaments.

The results were also disappointing considering more women than ever were running — comprising 29 per cent of all candidates — but weren't winning. The Liberals ran the most women (113), but elected just 18, while the Conservatives ran just 60 women, of which 23 were elected. The New Democrats ran 104 women and elected 12, while the Bloc Québécois ran 75 and elected 15. Following a familiar pattern that we have often seen, many women were nominated in "unwinnable" ridings where their parties did poorly in the past and where they had little chance of success.

"Harper has an opportunity to make history ... by appointing substantial numbers of women to his cabinet and into prominent roles and major portfolios."

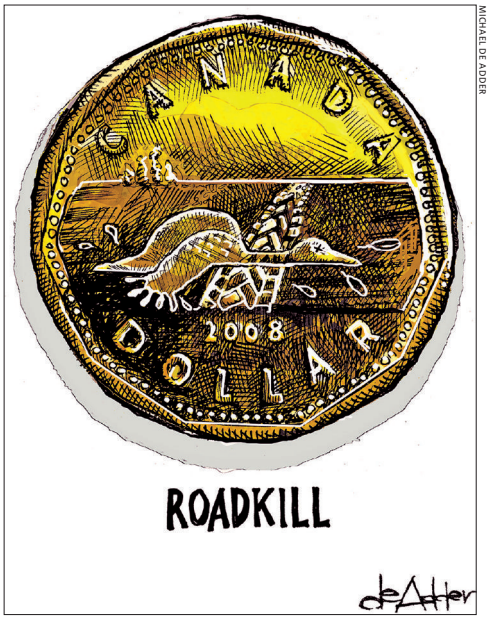
Still, the parties did try harder and we see signs of growing awareness among the public and the media that we need more women in elected office. Interest in female representation was undoubtedly sparked by massive media coverage of Hillary Clinton's remarkable, but failed, run to be the Democratic presidential nominee in the United States, and the Republicans' choice of Sarah Palin as that party's vice-presidential candidate.

With 23 women in his new caucus, Prime Minister Stephen Harper can boast the largest contingent of female MPs — a remarkable feat considering his and his Conservative party's past problems in attracting female voters. And his women's caucus includes experienced and talented women, such as Calgary MP Diane Ablonczy and newly elected Gail Shea from Prince Edward Island, whose merits justify a strong female contingent in his cabinet.

Harper has an opportunity to make history — and to help compensate for the disappointing overall election result for women — by appointing substantial numbers of women to his cabinet and into prominent roles and major portfolios.

In doing so, he will help his own future prospects — and give voice and visibility to half the population.

Donna Dasko, PhD, is senior vice-president of the polling firm Environics Research Group Limited. She is a founder and national vice-chair of Equal Voice, a multi-partisan organization dedicated to electing more women to Canada's Parliament and provincial legislatures.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Letters

Robert Krbavac, HAMILTON

Re: Maternity leave "non-existent" for owners.

My wife also runs a successful business in Hamilton. She has built her agency from the ground up, but now we are expecting our first child, or as Tricia put it, we are expecting "another baby."

We have both put in plenty of hours, money and time creating a successful brand. The main engine of this success being my wife.

I have a stable, well-paying job, but that does not lighten the stress we both feel about the future of her business — for her, as the force driving the business, and for me knowing that she will not have a real period to heal and rest before she has to get back to work.

Ottawa and Queen's Park take quite the dividend from businesses, enough to have us seriously rethink our political views in the last years.

We hope that with all the profits we send to these governments that raising a family will not be the end of a dream for a successful employer of five gifted people.

Thank you for drawing attention to hard-working entrepreneurial mothers. They are vital and need to be encouraged and protected as a valuable asset for all of us.

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BlackBerry to open online application store
BlackBerry users will have their own online store for games, maps and entertainment, something competitor Apple already has for its iPhone, when Research In Motion launches its new online application store next March. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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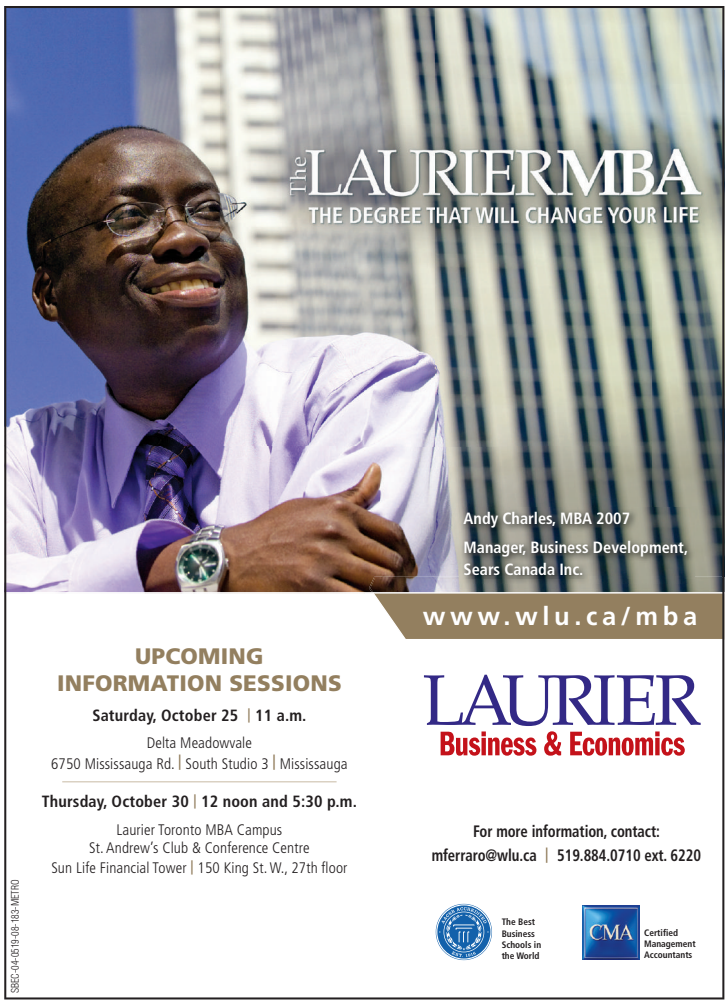
EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA



Canadians spend less

Consumers limiting buying to necessities

Canadian consumers spent less at stores in August as retail sales slowed for the third time in four months, Statistics Canada said.

And the trend likely worsened in September amid a global financial crisis that limited access to credit, experts predict.

Spending in August fell 0.3 per cent to $35.9 billion over the prior month, mainly due to lower sales of cars and falling prices at the gas pumps, Statistics Canada said yesterday.

"There's little doubt domestic demand is slowing."
Benjamin Reitzes, BMO Capital Markets

Gainers included general merchandise stores, such as Wal-Mart, as consumers sought lower-priced goods, and supermarkets where inflation boosted prices of food, according to reports based on the data.

"There's little doubt domestic demand is slowing," Benjamin Reitzes, an economist with BMO Capital Markets, wrote in a note.

The trends point to consumers increasingly limiting their spending to life's necessities, or shunning high-end items in favour of more affordable purchases. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Stocks tumble on increasing pessimism over economy

Stock markets in Toronto and New York racked up big losses yesterday of around five per cent as disappointing earnings reports and deteriorating economic outlooks sparked another selloff, particularly in commodity-related stocks.

"The good news is nobody is being caught by surprise by a new 500-point decline in the stock market — (they're) almost battle-hardened to it," said Andrew Martyn at Davis Rea Ltd. in Toronto.

The S&P/TSX composite index tumbled 558.92 points or 5.7 per cent to 9,236.88.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average lost 514.45 points or 5.7 per cent to 8,519.21. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oil prices fall to 16-month lows

ENERGY Oil prices tumbled below $67 US a barrel to 16-month lows yesterday after the U.S. government reported big increases in U.S. fuel supplies — more evidence that the economic downturn is drying up energy demand. THE ASSOCIATED

Saputo buying Neilson Dairy

GOT MILK Saputo Inc. is bulking up in Ontario with a $465-million cash deal to acquire the Ontario-focused Neilson Dairy business from George Weston Ltd. Neilson was founded in 1893 by William Neilson with seven cows. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

RECESSION Britain and the U.S. will suffer most from a global recession predicted to last until the middle of next year, Swiss bank UBS said yesterday. Domestic demand will help China and India soften off the crisis.

MARKETS World stock markets sagged yesterday as weak corporate earnings stoked fears that the government's financial intervention won't keep global economies out of recession. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Tax cuts for Prairie province
Saskatchewan is cutting taxes as other provinces are warning the purse strings may need to be tightened. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rich-poor gap widens

The gap between the haves and the have-nots in Canada has widened significantly over the last few years according to a global report, and the slowdown in the economy is going to hit both rich and poor alike with more job losses and reduced incomes going ahead, say the experts.

"All of the factors that accelerated income inequality in the uptimes, actually either are mitigated or may even reverse in a downslide," said Jeremy Leonard, a senior fellow with the Institute for Research on Public Policy, a Montreal group that studies economic, social and other public policy issues.

"We're talking about layoffs," he said Tuesday. "If we look at the sectors where we'll see layoffs, we see layoffs at all levels of income distribution."

The report, released by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, said the gap between the rich and poor in Canada widened between 1995 and 2005 partly because Ottawa spent less on benefits than many other developed countries.

As the former Liberal government cut spending to eliminate a massive deficit inherited from the previous Conservative government and made worse by the early 1990s recession, there was less money for social programs as well as jobless benefits to laid-off workers.

"All the factors that accelerated income inequality in the uptimes, actually either are mitigated or may even reverse in a downslide."
Jeremy Leonard, Institute for Research on Public Policy

The OECD figures don't factor in the slump in the Canadian economy, with little job creation expected over the next year or so. The unemployment rate is expected to rise beyond the current 6.1 per cent as layoffs mount in blue-collar industries, as well as the retail and service sectors, financial services and other sectors.

Consumer confidence in Canada and the U.S. has also fallen to the lowest level since the early 1980s following the failure of several financial institutions and the bailouts of others.

The OECD said the widening of the rich-poor gap was a reversal of the trend in the two previous decades when it was narrowing, said the OECD, which attributed the widening gap in part to the Canadian government's spending policies.

"Canada spends less on cash benefits such as unemployment benefits and family benefits than most OECD countries," the report said. "Partly as a result, taxes and transfers do not reduce inequality by as much as in many other countries."

The study also found Canada's well-to-do enjoyed a more substantial income than their counterparts in other developed countries. Canadians in the top 10 per cent income bracket were earning an average of $71,000, more than 30 per cent higher than the OECD average of $54,000.

While the average incomes for Canada's middle and lower classes also exceeded the OECD average, the margin was less pronounced at 18 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec pesticide ban challenged

NAFTA A Quebec ban on the weed-killer 2,4-D is being challenged under the North American Free Trade Agreement by the company that makes the commonly used herbicide.

A Canadian unit of Dow Chemical alleges the province began its campaign against the pesticide in 2002 without any scientific basis for a ban and in violation of the trade agreement.

Dow AgroSciences notes Health Canada ruled this year that 2,4-D can be used safely according to label directions.

It argues Quebec's ban opens the door to making public policy without scientific criteria.

It is challenging the province under Chapter 11 of the free trade agreement between Canada, the United States and Mexico.

"This challenge is aimed at ensuring that important public policy decisions are based on scientific evidence, predictability and a clear set of principles, and are managed within a transparent framework," said Jim Wispinski, president and CEO of Dow AgroSciences.

"The actions of the Government of Quebec are tantamount to a blanket ban based on non-scientific criteria, and we are of the view that this is in breach to certain provisions of NAFTA."

The use of pesticides has long been controversial because of fears of the potential impact on the environment and human health.

In June, Ontario passed legislation that will prohibit more than 80 ingredients and 300 pesticide products once the law is fully implemented next spring.

However, the Ontario law stopped short of banning 2,4-D, or 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, commonly used as a weed-killer by consumers and farmers.

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Small Business

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NEWS CANADA

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Nothing beats free

Word-of-mouth advertising great for small businesses

If women like a company's product, they will tell their friends about it, who will in turn tell their friends, and so on, an expert says.

When Anne Day launched her business, Company of Women (companyofwomen.ca), five years ago, she admits she spent a "fortune" on advertising and promotion.

In fact, in the first year, about 50 per cent of her budget went to newspaper ads, and promotional items, such as post-it notes bearing the company logo, as well as gifts for renewing members.

Then she discovered something: "If women like something, they tell their friends about it."

So instead of spending all her marketing money on advertising, she began to focus on connecting with other women's networks to promote her business, and on delivering a "quality experience, one they'll remember.

"Then they tell their friends, who tell other people," she says, likening it to the famous Breck hair shampoo commercial, "I told two friends, and they told two friends, and so on, and so on, and…"

In fact, Day believes word of mouth is responsible for 75 to 80 per cent of her company's growth, which now has 380 annual members, with many more attending a much-expanded roster of breakfast, lunch and dinner meetings held in Toronto, Mississauga, Oakville and Burlington.

"By maintaining your standards and constantly asking what your customers want — and listening to them," you can deliver a product that your customers will talk about, she says.

And the value of that is apparently priceless, in the advertising world.

"Word of mouth," is "the most powerful stimulus for marketing. It beats just about everything else," says Knud Jensen, a professor specializing in small business strategies and entrepreneurship at Ryerson University's Ted Rogers School of Management.

That's because it's not paid for like an advertisement, so there is more of a trust level with it, he says. "For small companies" — with small budgets — "this is even more important," he says.

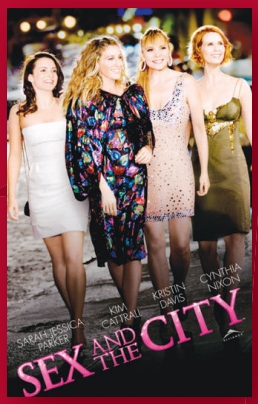
So how do you get the word out?

One way is to follow the "old adage" that everyone in your company is a "marketing person," says Jensen. "Think about an accounting person who doesn't see their role as a marketer, but they can still create issues with the suppliers or customers by not being nice or being curt."

Second is managing your reputation," he says. "We buy from companies that we trust."

But how do you get the process started?

"If you're a small company, your financial resources are small," notes Jensen. "You can't blow a million on communications." METRO NEWS SERVICES



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This year, Staples Business Depot will offer 250 seminars in its stores across Canada. These free seminars will offer advice designed to help small business owners in areas such as marketing, raising capital, branding and more. Go to easy.staples.ca for more. **NEWS CANADA**

Making credit work for your business

For small business owners whose personal resources can be stretched, financing a business or its growth becomes a critical concern.

Business owners can secure financing to start or expand a new venture through grants or loans.

For many, strategically managing business and personal credit is the difference between creating a large legacy of success and closing up shop for good.

There are many options for both new and existing businesses to secure financing to expand or start a new venture: Government grants, venture capital firms and private foundations are examples.

Of course, some also turn to relatives or friends who are willing to place their trust in what is hopefully a sound investment.

Banks and other financial institutions are great business allies for those looking to maximize their growth potential.

By providing customized solutions based on an individual need of the business, entrepreneurs can uncover equity to help achieve both short- and long-term business goals. Options may include personal credit — for example, credit cards, vehicle loans or home mortgages — or business credit.

Some types of business credit options include:

• **Short-term loans.** This is probably the most common type of business credit. Usually paid off within a year and can help a business temporarily in need of assistance overcome a brief or seasonal lull in cash flow.

• **Intermediate-term loans.** These typically have maturity dates from one to three years and can help businesses increase their working capital, open new offices or purchase new equipment.

• **Long-term loans.** These are usually arranged when the scheduled repayment is expected to exceed one year. Assets could be a new building or land, or a new computer system. The principal is repaid over a period of time and is directly related to the useful life of the asset.

Customizing loans to best suit the needs of a business is common — and critical — when dealing with any bank or financial institution.

"Business owners must make credit decisions based on their needs and their business profile," said Christine Morris, vice-president of TD Canada Trust Business Banking.

"Repayment schedules and interest rates can be flexible enough to assist a business as it is today and where it wants to be tomorrow."

A financial injection can be just the boost a business needs to grow to the next level. **NEWS CANADA**

Now, more than ever, business owners are keeping a close eye on the bottom line and are looking for ways to trim their budgets.

Many ways to trim budgets

Now, more than ever, businesses large and small are keeping a close eye on the bottom line and looking for ways to trim budgets. Here are a few measures you can take to make the most out of resources and keep tight budgets in check:

• **Consolidation consideration.** Forego multiple standalone devices and consolidate your fax machine, scanner and printer into a single multifunction device. This not only creates more office space, but it also saves money on maintenance, toner supplies and paper.

• **Make teleworking an option.** Deploy mobile technology to allow your workers to access information regardless of location. This will not only allow workers to respond to inquiries faster, but can also cut down on driving between locations which will save money on gas and free up valuable office space.

• **Bring colour copy work in-house.** A great way to cut costs is to reduce outsourcing. By investing in a colour printer, you can eliminate the need to outsource this job to costly third parties and recoup costs. **NEWS CANADA**

Prevent data theft

Data theft and customer privacy is a growing issue for all businesses. Make sure you are up to date with security software to protect your important business files and financial data — especially if you have an Internet connection. NEWS CANADA

Outsource help

Having the right people can make or break a business — especially a small business. The trouble is, many entrepreneurs don't have the time or the know-how to manage their HR needs, and many say it keeps them awake at night.

However, hiring a full-time HR person often isn't affordable for small businesses. But it's a myth that only large companies can afford to outsource HR-related processes.

Countless small businesses are taking advantage of business administrative services companies for a broad range of affordable, tailor-made services, such as:

- Employee record-keeping;
- Management of salaries and pay grades;
- Tracking employee benefits and absence plans;
- Documentation of employee performance and attendance;
- Management of government compliance requirements;
- Streamlining recruiting and hiring;
- Development of strategic career and succession plans;
- Link-ups to payroll systems. NEWS CANADA

Common errors can be avoided

When building your business, it can be easy to make mistakes. Below are the six worst errors you can make when building your business:

1. Being too reliant on one person, typically the business owner. By relying entirely on one person, you are setting yourself up for disaster if he or she gets sick and cannot run the business. You should have trusted partners or skilled employees trained and able to take over in the event of an emergency.

2. Not having a proper accounting system in place. Good bookkeeping is essential to the success of your business. "Hire a capable and effective CPA to assist you and keep you on top of all accounting-related government rules and regulations," says Paul MacDonald, senior vice-president of Aon. "There are also easy-to-use computer programs available to assist you in keeping track of your financials."

Good bookkeeping is essential to the success of your business.

3. Underestimating the financial requirements of the business. Be honest with yourself about financial requirements. Most entrepreneurs underestimate the required start-up capital. If you consider that you are likely going to lose money in the first six months to a year of your new business, you need to ensure you have arranged for sufficient capital to cover operating losses.

"Most entrepreneurs also underestimate the importance of insuring their business," say MacDonald. "All entrepreneurs should consider their insurance needs carefully to protect themselves and their business against workplace accidents, theft, property damage and other calamities."

4. Not understanding your target market. Understand everything you can about your customer. Get market research reports on their demographics, preferences, geographic distribution, and disposable income. You need to understand the needs of the market before going ahead with your product or service. A recession might not be the right time to start a high-end retail operation, but what about credit counselling?

5. Underestimating time and personal commitment involved in starting your own business. Most small business owners work more hours for themselves than they ever did for someone else. There's a large amount of sacrifice involved in owning your own business and you have to be prepared for the commitment.

6. Overestimating your abilities and not looking for help. Perform a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis on yourself. What are your strengths and weaknesses? Be clear about what you can and cannot do for the business and hire, or seek advice from, people who can help the areas in which you are weaker. NEWS CANADA

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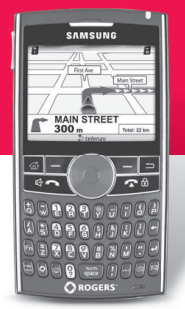

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Kobe day-to-day

Kobe Bryant hyperextended his right knee in the second quarter of the Los Angeles Lakers' exhibition game Tuesday night. Yesterday, the Lakers said they have no plans to have him undergo an MRI. He is listed as day-to-day. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Favre denies helping Lions

Brett Favre has denied reports that he called former Detroit president Matt Millen a few weeks ago and gave him and Lions coaches information they could use in a game against the Green Bay Packers. Favre, who had a bitter split with the Packers in the off-season, said yesterday that Millen had only called to invite him to go hunting.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Game Preview

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS vs BOSTON BRUINS

THE SKINNY: Winless in five, the Leafs travel to Boston to face the 2-1-3 Bruins in an Original 6 matchup.

THE LINES: Jason Blake found himself demoted to the fourth line in Tuesday's 3-2 shootout loss versus Anaheim, and coach Ron Wilson hinted that Blake would be scratched tonight. Ryan Hollweg, set to return from a three-game suspension, would take his place.

THE QUOTE: **"I will play the guys on any given night who I feel are giving the best effort, who can make a difference when they step out on the ice. If a guy isn't ready to play, that's inexcusable from my point of view, so you don't get to play much after that."** Wilson on his recent lineup tinkering. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lidge just happy to be in World Series

Even though closer's All-Star loss cost Philly home-field advantage

All things considered, the Phillies — much like W.C. Fields — would rather have been in Philadelphia.

Didn't happen, of course, and the 104th World Series opened last night in normally sleepy St. Pete. First out of the chute at loud and wonky Tropicana Field were young left-handed studs Cole Hamels for the Phils, Scott Kazmir for the Tampa Rays.

That the opener wasn't in Philadelphia, though … well, in a bizarro way, you might blame that all on Brad Lidge.

This would be patently unfair, given that the well-seasoned Phillie closer is a mere 46-for-46 in save situations for the NL champs this season, five of those in the post-season — so far.

Truth be, however, one of Lidge's notable misfires — a mere blip in a near five-hour marathon at Yankee Stadium in mid-July — came in the wee morning hours in the south Bronx.

The last NL pitcher on the charts, Lidge started the 15th and ended up conceding a sac fly to Michael Young that scored Justin Morneau in a cloud of dust.

The 4-3 win, for the sixth straight year, assured the eventual AL champs the home-field edge when things got down to the big October dance.

"There may be some guys in here (the Phillies' clubhouse) poking fun at me," said Lidge. "But it'll all be in good humour. They watched that game; they know the circumstances."

As in warming up six times that night in New York, logging close to 100 pitches in the bullpen before finally getting the call in the 15th. He was the only one there to answer.

"As a closer, you try not to think about the past very often," said Lidge.

"But, then, one of the first things that also comes to mind just now is, 'Wow, it's great this situation has come into play for us to even be talking about this (the All-Star Game). It means we're in the World Series."

Same thing for Kazmir, of course, who just happened to pick up the win that night in New York for pitching a scoreless top of the 15th.

And Tampa third baseman Evan Longoria, whose pinch-hit double in the eighth just happened to score the tying run for the ALers.

The team with home field advantage, by the way, has won out in 18 of the previous 22 World Series going back to include 1985. The exceptions came in 1992, when the Blue Jays surprised Atlanta; 1999 (the Yankees over Atlanta); 2003 (Florida over the Marlins); and 2006, when the Cardinals bested Detroit.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Read more online at metronews.ca

For a complete recap of Game 1 of the World Series, visit metronews.ca/sports

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Raptors' TV sked may put heat on Rogers

TELEVISION TSN is poised to televise the majority of the Toronto Raptors games this season, scoring what the broadcaster hopes will be a slam dunk with basketball fans.

The Raptors schedule, unveiled yesterday, sees TSN and TSN2 airing 48 games — including 25 games on TSN2 — during the 2008-09 campaign, more than any of its Canadian competitors. But TSN officials are keeping their fingers crossed they'll have good news about negotiations with Rogers Cable before the first scheduled game on TSN2 on Nov. 16. TSN2, the new secondary sports network operated by TSN, is currently unavailable to Rogers customers.

All 82 Raptors games will be televised in high definition this season.

The Score will air 20 Raptors games, including the regular-season opener Oct. 29 at Philadelphia, and the home opener Oct. 31 when the Raptors debut their new alternate black jerseys against the visiting Golden State Warriors. CBC will televise 12 games this season, up from eight last year.

TSN2 is available in 3.2 million homes — nationally on Bell and through several regional companies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Politicians try to save Canadian Grand Prix
Montreal Mayor Gerald Tremblay and federal and provincial cabinet ministers travelled to London yesterday to make a case for saving the Canadian Grand Prix. F1 chief Bernie Ecclestone says Montreal has not paid its debts to his organization for the last three years. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Leafs have decision to make with Schenn

TheHockeyNews
Ryan Kennedy

thehockeynews.com

Two moments in Toronto's shootout loss to Anaheim Tuesday crystallized the possibilities that lie within rookie defenceman Luke Schenn.

In the first period, Schenn came within a hair of dropping the gloves with Ducks young gun Corey Perry and trust me, Schenn wasn't the one who backed out. For the rest of the game, Schenn's older teammates (most notably Jonas Frogren and Jamal Mayers) took turns unloading heavy hits on Perry whenever possible, as if to say, "if our kid wants to go, you better go."

In the third period, trailing 2-1, Schenn grabbed a loose puck and streaked down the wing with Matt Stajan quickly joining him. Only a great defensive slide from Chris Pronger prevented the 2-on-1 from becoming a sure scoring chance.

In both cases, nothing ended up happening, yet both illustrated the complete game Schenn is capable of playing in the NHL and the fact he is capable of doing so right now.

Ah, but therein lies the rub. Toronto has nine NHL-calibre defencemen right now. In keeping Schenn for the season, rather than returning him to the junior Kelowna Rockets after nine games (in which time his NHL entry-level contract would kick in), the Buds are going to be playing musical chairs too frequently for most tastes. Just ask recent healthy scratches Carlo Colaiacovo or Ian White.

The heat turns up a little more when Jeff Finger, signed as a free agent this summer to play in the top four, returns from injury.

Now I was very well-prepared to claim Schenn should be sent back to junior, but on second thought, maybe he should stay.

In keeping him up, he learns from coach Ron Wilson, who clearly trusts the youngster enough to play him more than 20 minutes a night. Wilson, himself a former Maple Leafs defenceman, has the luxury of knowing Schenn will likely slow down at the tail end of the season (many rookies do thanks to an increased amount of games played versus their previous season) and can adjust his expectations and the rookie's ice time accordingly. If Schenn doesn't slow down? Bonus. The Leafs will be in tough to make the playoffs, so it's basically a firm 82-game timetable we're dealing with here.

The one big advantage to sending Schenn down is the fact he would certainly play for Team Canada at this year's World Junior Championship in Ottawa. Nothing like a gold medal to make a kid's year.

But there is another way to get the best of both worlds and there have been rumblings that the following will happen: The Leafs keep Schenn, but loan him to Team Canada in December for the tourney. With so many defenceman available, it would benefit both the Leafs and Schenn to send him off for a little mid-season change of scenery, not to mention playing in some pressure-packed medal games.

It's obvious Schenn is a future cornerstone in Toronto based on his poise and play of late. He can't be expected to win the Calder Trophy for rookie of the year and he's not going to score 20 goals. Heck, he may not even finish with a positive plus-minus this season.

But all the tools are there. With the proper sharpening, Schenn will be doing big things and scaring a lot of opponents in the next couple seasons, more likely sooner than later.

The Hockey News thn.com

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Rivet out

Buffalo Sabres captain Craig Rivet will miss at least two weeks after having arthroscopic knee surgery. General manager Darcy Regier announced the injury yesterday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Burris heads weekly awards

Burris

CFL Quarterback Henry Burris, who threw five touchdown passes to lead the Calgary Stampeders past the Winnipeg Blue Bombers 37-16 last week, was named the CFL's offensive player of the week.

Burris finished 28-of-36 passing for 337 yards in capturing the unanimous selection.

Linebacker Renauld Williams of the Saskatchewan Roughriders captured defensive player honours. Williams had 11 tackles and added three more on special teams in leading the Riders past the Hamilton Tiger-Cats 30-29.

B.C. Lions receiver Paris Jackson was named top Canadian. Jackson had eight catches for 127 yards and a TD in the Lions' 43-28 win over Edmonton to secure the unanimous selection.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Beckham near AC loan deal

AC Milan is close to signing David Beckham in a loan deal that would allow the Los Angeles Galaxy midfielder and former England captain to play in Italy's Serie A for a few months starting in January.

David Beckham appears headed to AC Milan.

"We are very glad that David Beckham is going to play for us for three months," Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani said yesterday. "We will see how it will work out."

With the Major League Soccer season nearly over, Beckham is eager to join another club in Europe so he can remain match fit and keep his place in England's squad for World Cup qualifying.

England coach Fabio Capello has said he will not pick players who are not active, and Galliani appeared to suggest that the midfielder could stay in Italy beyond the term of the original deal.

"I don't know how for long he will stay," said Galliani, who was speaking in the Netherlands, where Milan was set to play a UEFA Cup match at Heerenveen today. "We'll have three months to see how it goes.

Beckham's spokesman, Simon Oliveira of 19 Management in Los Angeles, said "nothing is confirmed at present."

"I can confirm that talks are taking place with Milan with regard to a short-term loan move," he said. "David's intention is to maintain his fitness and keep himself eligible for England's selection. He very much remains a Galaxy player and he would be in Los Angeles for the start of the 2009 MLS season."

While many Italian clubs are struggling with attendance, Galliani noted that 65,000 fans showed up for Milan's home game Sunday with Sampdoria.

"Beckham will bring more fans," Galliani said.

Beckham would join a stellar squad at Milan, including Brazil standouts Ronaldinho, Kaka and Alexandre Pato, plus Italy's Andrea Pirlo and Gennaro Gattuso.

Ancelotti also indicated Beckham could play for Milan in the UEFA Cup.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pound apologizes for remarks

OLYMPICS A member of the 2010 Olympic committee board says he's sorry if a remark he made about aboriginal people caused any pain. Richard Pound told The Canadian Press he never intended to be derogatory when he used a French-language phrase that was interpreted as calling Canada a "land of savages" 400 years ago. Pound made the comments in an August interview with a French newspaper about whether China should have been awarded the Olympics because of its human rights record.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chiefs' Johnson says he's sorry

NFL Saying he was "kind of disgusted with myself," Chiefs RB Larry Johnson apologized yesterday for behaviour that's led to an NFL investigation and to his benching for a second straight week.

It has been disclosed that police and the NFL are investigating a report that Johnson spat several times on a woman at a Kansas City nightclub.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Raps trim roster
The Toronto Raptors waived forward-centre Jamal Sampson yesterday. The NBA club signed Sampson as a free agent last month. He had two points and three rebounds in one pre-season game. The Raptors' roster currently stands at 13 players. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bold biathletes **Calendar girls**

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

After having trouble getting the bare necessities to train and compete, the Canadian women's biathlon team decided to take their clothes off. Five athletes from the team posed for a calendar entitled Bold Beautiful Biathlon, which is being sold online (*boldbeautifulbiathlon.com*) for $25, including shipping.

NBA GM survey predicts a Lakers-Celtics encore

NBA The Los Angeles Lakers will avenge their NBA finals loss to the Boston Celtics, according to a survey of the league's general managers.

The executives who responded to the NBA.com GM survey also picked Cleveland's LeBron James for the third straight year as the likely MVP.

The Lakers received 46 per cent of the vote, well ahead of the Celtics (19 per cent). Boston beat Los Angeles in six games in June.

James, who has never won the MVP award, collected 56 per cent of votes in that category.

Full results are posted on NBA.com.

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Bad timing for comment

U.S. Amateur golf winner Danny Lee was detained by airport authorities for making an "inappropriate comment" while checking in for an international flight at Wellington airport in New Zealand. Lee, the No. 1-ranked amateur golfer, could be charged for his actions, New Zealand Golf said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Silva shows Canadian Cote respect ahead of fight

UFC Ignoring the fact he is a 7-1 favourite, middleweight champion Anderson (The Spider) Silva praised Canadian Patrick (The Predator) Cote as a tough opponent yesterday and said the Montrealer's direct style should make for a great fight at UFC 90 Saturday night.

The hard-hitting Brazilian is 7-0 in the UFC and only three of his opponents have made it out of the first round. The bookmakers are not giving Cote much of a chance to blot that mixed martial arts record, although some fighters believe Cote's standup skills give him a shot at the Allstate Arena (available on pay-per-view).

Middleweight Drew McFedries knows all about Cote's power. He was knocked out by the Canadian in January.

"I give Cote a great shot at this," McFedries said. "If he does the right things, he can win this match."

"I will take the belt home and shock the world, for sure."
Patrick Cote

Said lightweight Tyson Griffin: "I think it's going to be a good fight, two strikers that are wanting to bang. Expect to see fireworks and probably a knockout in that one."

Silva, for one, showed plenty of respect for Cote in talking about the fight yesterday, dismissing those who take the Canadian lightly.

"The public and the people can say what they want. Everyone has a right to their own opinion," Silva said through an interpreter. "But I went into this training camp 100 per cent focused. Patrick Cote is the No. 1 contender right now and I did not take him lightly.

"People can say what they want. But until people get into the ring and see what it's like, it's real easy to talk about me."

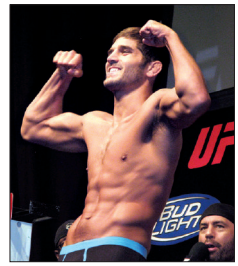
Cote, riding a five-fight win streak, looked relaxed and confident as he worked out for the media.

He even took up a diminutive young female reporter's wish to learn about Muay Thai, putting her in a clinch and throwing pretend knees at her.

But the 28-year-old former corporal in the Canadian Armed Forces was all business talking about Silva.

"I took 10 weeks of my life for this fight — the hardest training camp I've ever had. I can't wait to show everybody Saturday that I deserve the spot. And I will take the belt home and I will shock the world, for sure," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Montreal's Patrick Cote is riding a five-fight winning streak.

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NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	W	L	OL	PTS
Montreal	5	0	1	11
Buffalo	4	0	1	9
Boston	2	1	2	6
Ottawa	2	3	1	5
TORONTO	1	2	2	4

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	OL	PTS
N.Y. Rangers	6	2	1	13
New Jersey	4	1	0	10
Pittsburgh	4	2	1	9
N.Y. Islanders	2	3	0	4
Philadelphia	0	3	3	3

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	W	L	OL	PTS
Washington	3	1	1	7
Carolina	3	1	1	7
Florida	3	3	0	6
Atlanta	2	2	1	5
Tampa Bay	0	2	3	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	OL	PTS
St. Louis	4	1	0	8
Detroit	3	1	1	7
Nashville	3	3	0	6
Chicago	2	2	2	
Columbus	2	3	0	4

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	OL	PTS
Minnesota	4	0	0	8
Edmonton	4	0	0	8
Colorado	3	3	0	6
Vancouver	3	3	0	6
Calgary	1	3	1	3

PACIFIC DIVISION

	W	L	OL	PTS
San Jose	6	1	0	12
Dallas	2	3	1	5
Los Angeles	2	3	0	4
Phoenix	2	3	0	4
Anaheim	1	5	0	2

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS
Florida 3, Ottawa 1
New Jersey 5, Dallas 0
San Jose 7, Philadelphia 6 (SO)
Detroit at St. Louis
Edmonton at Chicago

SCORING

	G	A	PTS
Malkin, Pgh	2	9	11
Semin, Wash	6	4	10
P.Stastny, Col	1	9	10
Vanek, Buf	7	2	9
Savard, Bos	5	4	9
Voros, NYR	5	4	9
Dubinsky, NYR	3	6	9
S.Koivu, Mtl	3	6	9
Crosby, Pgh	1	8	9
Kariya, StL	1	8	9

MLB

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Food

"A barbecue sauce with chipotles gives a nice smoky flavour. If you have smoked paprika, try that."
Barb Holland/for Metro Canada

Say what?
Boneless pork shoulder is sometimes called Boston butt.

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Tender, loving cooking

À la carte

Barb Holland
Metro Food Writer

Slow cookers are nice to come home to — and the ideal appliance for braising (cooking low and slow in liquid) less tender but flavourful cuts of meat. A pork shoulder roast is a perfect case in point — slow cooking tenderizes the meat such that it shreds easily, aha — pulled pork.

This recipe requires a little planning to make it at least a day ahead. I often let the slow cooker cook it overnight, then cool and refrigerate it during the day. The fat rises to the top and hardens when chilled, making it easy to remove. Serve on onion buns with coleslaw.

While slow cooker cookbooks would have you cooking everything in the slow cooker, in my opinion, it is best for braising less tender cuts of meat. So stews, chili, pot roasts and lamb shanks are ideal for the slow cooker — and, of course, a deliciously soft pulled pork sandwich.

Pulled Pork

An easy meal that is popular with kids and adults alike (and makes great leftovers). Makes 6 servings.

INGREDIENTS:
- 2 lb (1 kg) boneless pork shoulder roast, remove any excess fat
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) prepared mustard

Dry Rub:
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) each granulated sugar and paprika
- 1-1/2 tsp (7 mL) each brown sugar, ground cumin, chili powder and black pepper
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) each salt and cayenne
- 2 onions, halved and thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) smoky barbecue sauce
- 6 soft buns
- Coleslaw

METHOD:
Spread mustard over pork. Make rub mixture by combing sugar, paprika, brown sugar, cumin, chili powder, pepper, salt and cayenne. Pat evenly over pork. Place in slow cooker, top with onions and barbecue sauce. Cook, covered on low for eight to 10 hours or until very tender.

Transfer pork to a cutting board and cool slightly. Using two forks, shred meat, discarding any fat. Cool, then cover and refrigerate. Put the cooking liquid in a tall bowl, cool then refrigerate to solidify fat.

Remove fat and transfer liquid to a saucepan. Bring to a boil and cook to reduce and thicken it. (Or blend a little cornstarch with cold water, whisk into cooking liquid and bring to a boil, whisking constantly, until thickened into a sauce.) Add meat to sauce and heat until warmed though. Serve on buns.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

This recipe appears in The Main: Recipes by Anthony Sedlak.

The Main selection

The Main: Recipes cookbook brings together chef Anthony Sedlak's creations from his hit Food Network show The Main. The Main airs weeknights at 7 p.m. ET on the Food Network.

Crab Cakes

For recipes for Grilled Artichokes, Tomato Salsa with Caper mayonnaise to accompany these crab cakes, visit metronews.ca.

INGREDIENTS:
- 2 tbsp olive oil, divided
- ½ medium onion, finely chopped
- 1 stalk celery, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp white wine
- 1 ½ lbs lump crab meat, drained and picked over
- 1 Granny Smith apple, peeled and grated
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- ¼ cup sour cream
- ¼ cup finely chopped chives
- 2 tbsp finely chopped tarragon
- ½ tsp cayenne
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 cup breadcrumbs, divided

METHOD:
Preheat oven to 375 F.

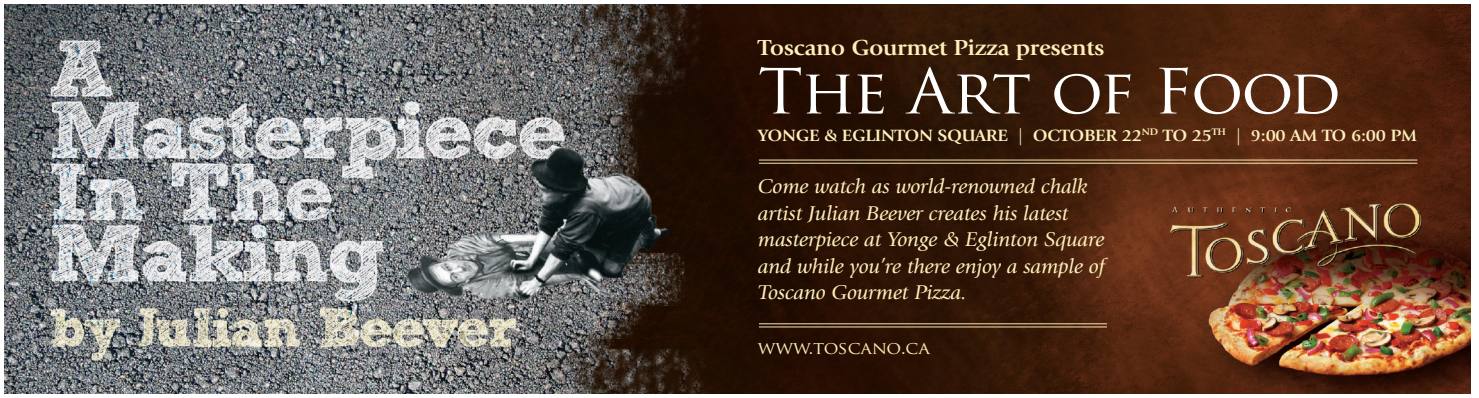
In a skillet, heat 1 tbsp olive oil over low heat. Add onions and celery and cook gently for 3 to 4 minutes, or until vegetables are soft and translucent.

Add white wine and cook slowly over medium heat, covered, until vegetables are tender. Remove from heat and let mixture cool. In a large bowl, mix crabmeat, apple, mayonnaise, sour cream, chives, tarragon, cayenne and egg yolk. Add 1/3 cup of breadcrumbs. Add onion and celery mixture and combine. Season with salt and pepper. If mixture does not hold together, add more breadcrumbs.

Place remaining 2/3 cup of breadcrumbs into a large shallow dish. Divide crab mixture into 8 portions. Form crab cakes into 2 inch rounds with 1 inch thickness. Dip the top and bottom of each crab cake into breadcrumbs. Set aside on a baking tray.

In a non-stick pan, heat remaining 1 tbsp of oil over medium high heat. Add 4 crab cakes and cook for 2-3 minutes, or until golden brown. Flip crab cakes and sear another 1 minute. Transfer crab cakes to baking sheet. Repeat with remaining cakes.

Place baking sheet in preheated oven, and bake for 6-7 minutes, or until crab cakes are heated through.



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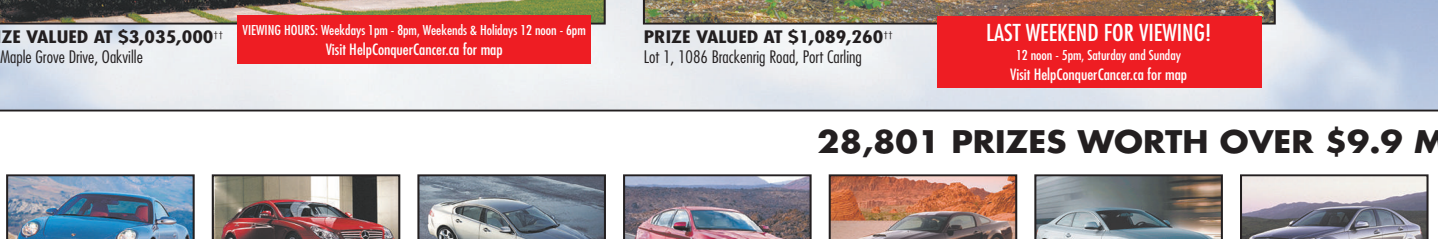

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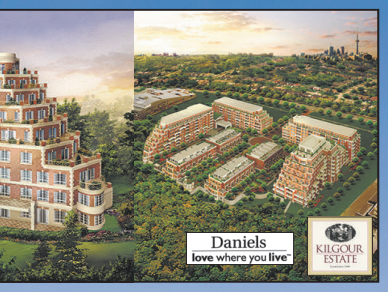

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Historical exhibition

Toronto Public Library will launch Local Flavour: Eating in Toronto, 1830-1955, an exhibition that traces the history of Toronto through cooking and dining. The exhibition opens this Saturday, at Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St., in the TD Gallery. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Treats that are dressed to impress

Stuffed cooked pears are delectably tender and make an attractive presentation when drizzled with ruby syrup.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

These roasted pears make a stunning impression.

Roasted Pears With Cranberry Syrup

Makes 6 servings. For a variation, omit vanilla yogurt. Serve pears with scoop of frozen yogurt or ice cream.

INGREDIENTS:

- 150 ml (2/3 cup) dry red wine
- 150 ml (2/3 cup) cran-blueberry, cranberry or apple juice
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) granulated sugar
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) ground ginger
- 6 ml (1 1/4 tsp) cinnamon, divided
- 5 ml (1 tsp) lemon juice
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) each chopped walnuts and dried cranberries or raisins
- 6 firm but ripe medium Bosc pears with stems
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) vanilla yogurt

METHOD:

In a medium saucepan, bring wine, juice, sugar, ginger, 2 ml (1/2 tsp) of the cinnamon and lemon juice to a boil; boil for 1 to 2 minutes, stirring to dissolve sugar.

In a small bowl, mix together walnuts, cranberries and remaining cinnamon. Using a melon baller or apple corer, seed and core pears from bottom wide end. Using a vegetable peeler, peel pears, leaving stem intact; trim bottom if necessary to stand upright. Spoon walnut stuffing inside cavities and pack firmly.

Stand pears upright in 2.5-l (9-inch) square cake pan. Pour wine mixture over pears. Bake in a 200 C (400 F) oven, basting every 12 to 15 minutes, for 25 to 30 minutes or just until pears are tender when pierced with sharp knife.

Let cool for 10 minutes. With spatula, remove pears to plate. (Pears can be made up to 8 hours ahead.)

Pour sauce into a medium saucepan and bring to a low rolling boil; cook until syrupy and reduced to about 75 ml (1/3 cup), 12 to 15 minutes. Let cool to room temperature.

To serve, spread 50 ml (1/4 cup) yogurt on each plate; stand each pear upright in centre of yogurt. Drizzle with syrup, allowing it to swirl into yogurt. (If syrup is too thick, reheat slightly on low or add a little juice.)

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spiced Mayan Chocolate Coated Walnuts.

This simple and flavourful mix includes a fiery kick of cayenne pepper. It's a perfect snack for entertaining or to nosh on while simply lounging.

Chocolate-Coated Walnuts

Makes about 500 ml (2 cups).

INGREDIENTS:

- 30 ml (2 tbsp) butter
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) cayenne pepper
- 10 ml (2 tsp) ground cinnamon
- 500 ml (2 cups) walnut halves
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) granulated sugar
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) cocoa powder
- Preheat oven to 120 C (250 F).

METHOD:

In a large microwavable bowl, place butter, cayenne and cinnamon. Microwave on high until butter is melted, about 30 seconds. Whisk ingredients together to combine. Add walnuts and stir to coat. Sprinkle with sugar and toss to coat walnuts.

Pour mixture onto a rimmed baking sheet. Bake in centre of oven for about 1 hour stirring about every 15 minutes, until walnuts are a deep golden colour and toasted. Sift cocoa over warm walnuts. Let cool. Store in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 5 days. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Fall bulbs bear spring surprise

With a little care, your perennials can become beautiful blooms

Bulbs are nature's answer to all those impatient gardeners trying to get a running start on spring. Plant them now, as temperatures cool but before the ground freezes hard, and the bulbs will provide a cheerful, colourful show before the last snows of winter melt away.

You're in for a treat if you're new to bulb gardening. Bloom colours are dazzling and their year-to-year staying power provides great value.

You can be forgiven if you're unaware of a few bulb basics, starting with which end should go up when dropping them into the ground. For the record, it's the pointed end. The side showing the stringy evidence of roots should face bottom. But not to worry. Bulbs are pretty forgiving.

"If you aren't sure, plant it sideways. It should right itself," said Barbara Pierson, nursery manager at White Flower Farm in Litchfield, Conn.

Here are a few more bulb culture essentials:

• Plant bulbs deep and in well-drained soils having a neutral pH. "Big bulbs, including daffodils, tulips and hyacinths, get planted eight inches deep," said Sally Ferguson, a spokeswoman for the Netherlands Flower Bulb Information Center. "Small bulbs, such as grape hyacinths, crocus and others are planted five inches deep."

• Water newly planted bulbs frequently to help get their roots established.

• Perennials need to be fed. Fertilize bulbs once in the fall and again in the spring with an organic mixture of 9-9-6 — the percentage, by weight, of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium. Spread that slow-release organic blend over the ground's surface rather than into the holes, which may cause root burn.

"For the first year at least, a bulb has everything inside it that it needs to grow and it blooms beautifully for you."
Jo-Anne van den Berg-Ohms

• Deadhead the plants after they've finished blooming to prevent wasted seedpod growth and to allow leaves and stems to dry before tidying up.

See to that, and you'll discover that bulbs are about as easy as it gets in gardening.

"Flower bulbs are like the perfect suitcase," said Jo-Anne van den Berg-Ohms, president of Van Engelen Inc. in Bantam, Conn. "Lay them in the ground and over winter, they'll develop a good root system. In spring, the miracle occurs when they come up and bloom.

PHOTOS BY DEAN FOSDICK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Above: Crocus are seen in this photo in New Market, Va. Spring-flowering bulbs like their time in the sun, but many of the early blooming varieties will do well in partial shade, like these crocus.
Right: Fritillaria meleagris is seen in this photo in New Market, Va. Some of the lesser-known spring flowering bulbs include the Fritillaria.

"For the first year at least, a bulb has everything inside it that it needs to grow and it blooms beautifully for you."

Most flowering bulbs are described as perennials, but some are more perennial than others — especially when given a proper start and a little attention during each growing season. To ensure many happy returns, choose bulbs labeled "Good for Perennializing" or "Good for Naturalizing."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More to choose

• If it's flower bulbs you want for that new cutting garden, then there's more than tulips from which to choose. Here are some lesser-known bulb varieties, bulbs new to the market, rare heirloom bulbs or bulbs that look promising for certain special characteristics:

• "Alliums are fabulous," said Jo-Anne van den Berg-Ohms, president of Van Engelen Inc., a wholesale flower bulb company in Bantam, Conn. "They have huge globes, primarily purple that look like hovering balloons." Try the Schubertii, Gladiator or Globemaster.

• "Lilies are great for early- to mid- and late-summer bloom," van den Berg-Ohms said. "They're terrific for garden display as well as in cut arrangements. The same with Dutch and dwarf iris." Some suggestions: Dot Com lily or Royal Fantasy lily.

• Fritillaria are available in many sizes, shapes and colors. Try the checkerboard-patterned, bell-shaped, guinea hen variety (Meleagris). They are diminutive, showy and long lasting.

• Galanthus, or Snowdrops, are one of the earliest flowers to emerge in spring. Try Elwesii or nivalis Flore Pleno.

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Decor

Read more in the November issue of STYLE AT HOME magazine. ON SALE NOW! styleathome.com | CANADA'S styleathome

Off the wall

This decadent decal warms up a room

HOME & STYLE A fireplace in under five minutes — and for under $50? Chalk it up to a decadent baroque trompe l'oeil wall decal that will bring an instant hearth to your home. Jean-Daniel Frenette's Barok Fireplace in Bronze, $48, Adzif, Montreal, 514-664-5193; 866-992-3943 or *adzif.ca* for retailers and to order. — BRETT WALTHER

Fab flooring

Torlys gives leather a new lease on life

HOME & STYLE Walk on croc! Torlys' ultraluxe leather flooring collection boasts an ultra-affordable price point, and a clear conscience: it's fashioned from recycled leather. Below, Torlys smart Floors' leather flooring in (clockwise from top left) Trieste, Genova cognac, Modena Brown, Trieste, Genova Black, $11 per square foot, Torlys, 800-461-2573 or *torlys.com* for retailers. Mascagne boots in chili, $180, Rockport, *rockport.com* for stores and retailers.

— BRETT WALTHER

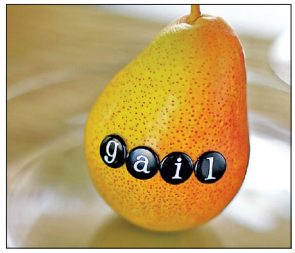
It's time to take your seat

Place cards add a charming touch to gatherings of any size

Though it might seem a tad formal in this age of casual entertaining, setting place cards at your table is a thoughtful and charming way to guide guests to their seats, whether you're hosting a soiree for 60 or an intimate sit-down for six.

And why not? Creative cards can serve up loads of fun, get the conversation going, and even double as favours. Use your imagination, or steal one of these ideas — just a few of the many in November's Style at Home — for your next fete.

— WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY SUSAN ROGERS



PAUL CHMIELOWIEC

From left: Clever clip A colourful binder clip (available at business supply stores) makes an inexpensive and easy stand for any ready-made place card. Or create your own cards using patterned paper personalized with stick-on letters. **What a pear!** It's easy being green with this edible place card idea, but don't forget to remind guests to remove their name before they chomp! Stick letter brads (available at scrapbooking and craft or art supply shops) into any soft-skin fruit that stands upright. **Spell it out** Another use for your family Scrabble game. Talk about simple – all you have to do is know how to spell!

Thomas loves it! **A consummate host dishes on his entertaining must-haves**

Thomas Smythe, a designer with Sarah Richardson Design and cast member of HGTV's Design Inc., is known for his swell soirees. Here are some of his party-giving staples:

"Hors d'oeuvres don't stay on the plate for long. When I use a colourful vintage serving plate, something lovely is revealed each time another nibbly disappears." **Circa 1930s Myott, Son & Co. cake plate, $265, Cynthia Findlay Antiques, *cynthiafindlay.com*.**

"These are the best (pillar candles) I've ever found. They're good-looking, virtually smoke-free and are reasonably easy on the pocketbook." **Geoffrey Lane Unscented Candles, from $14, *geoffreylane.com*.**

"These glasses perfectly embody the modern combination of masculine glamour and old-school good taste." **Thomas O'Brien by Reed & Barton Darby crystal double old-fashioned glasses, $88 per set of four, Telep Distributors, *telep.com* for retailers.**

— CORINNA VAN GERWEN

NINA TEIXEIRA

"(The poppy) is unusual and not so easy to get, so chances are your guests haven't seen one up close in a while. It's pretty and carries almost no scent, so it won't interfere with the aromatic element of the dining experience."

For a memorable evening, give your guests something to talk about

Ashleigh Dempster and Amanda Blakley, co-founders of culture club The Society, know how to get and keep guests talking long after the night is through:

- Play games. "It sounds cheesy, but games can be really interesting at a dinner party," says Amanda. Try a set of boxed questions like Gravitas (right) or TableTopics.
- Throw a costume party (any time of year). "Costumes give people something to talk about," says Dempster. "And it brings people out of their shells."
- Include a news article in the invitation and instruct guests to read the piece. "If the article is about something really interesting ... it could help get a good conversation flowing," says Blakley.
- Sing karaoke. "As much as people say they don't like it, after a good dinner party, there's nothing that takes it to another level like karaoke — it's always a big hit," says Dempster.
- Have each guest bring a different wine. Then get each person to tell a story about a memory or experience linked to their particular choice.

— CORINNA VAN GERWEN

Each card in this boxed set lists three thought-provoking questions to get people talking. Gravitas game, $39, *gravitasthegame.com*.

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Surviving the great garage cleanup

Last week I ventured into the world of high-style, customizable garages, replete with everything from colourful PVC tile flooring and mix-and-match cabinets to sofas and flat-screen TVs.

But even if most of us could shell out the steep prices those kind of makeovers command, we'd have a more basic problem to deal with first — our garages are so crammed that seeing a square foot of custom flooring would be a challenge.

Just how bad can your garage get? Pretty bad, says Ron Binder, co-owner of OnWall Solutions, *onwallsolutions.com*, a Toronto firm that specializes in garage storage.

HomeScape

"The biggest problem I've seen with garages is that there is so much junk piled inside that the homeowner can no longer park the car," he says, adding he encounters this kind of situation all the time, with all kinds of people.

Phew! That's a relief, because I thought I was abnormal. But still, scraping ice off the windshield — when I could be parked in my nice warm garage — is kind of annoying.

So I decided to start a major clean-up, and boy, did I have a lot of stuff. And since we're speaking of stuff, let's admit for once and for all that it is the dark heart of the problem when it comes to garages and organization.

Job number one is offloading. This means taking inventory of what you have and deciding what you no longer need. I'll admit to feeling a great sense of satisfaction as I amassed a huge pile of outgoing items, some of it destined for the trash and other stuff for a local charity. The hardest part of the job was actually negotiating with my husband, who has a tough time getting rid of stuff that I would turf in a minute.

The hardest part of the job was actually negotiating with my husband, who has a tough time getting rid of stuff that I would turf in a minute.

But, all turned out well. After a series of "This is junk. No, it isn't" conversations, we eventually did reach an agreement, and made an amicable trip down to the Sally Ann.

During the inventory, I also noticed odd items that really didn't belong in the garage — for me, these were things better stored in the house. These are usually the items that are retrieved for parties or family gatherings once a year (the Christmas dishes and big serving platters, for instance), accompanied by frustrated cursing and the clattering of dislodged items on the garage floor.

For all you scientific types out there, the next part of the cleanup involves categorizing and sorting the stuff that remains. Sporting goods went into one pile, all the gardening things in another, and so on.

But you also need to tag items, since your wonderful organizing efforts will mean squat if your family is not aware of how you decided to store things.

Sturdy stick-on tags or pieces of coloured hockey tape do the job nicely. Try tagging items in each category with a particular colour — say, green for gardening paraphernalia and red for sporting and recreational items. Also tag the container or shelf, so the family knows where said family of items must go. You can even provide a map and tack it in a prominent place if they need a visual reminder.

Finally, think about how you'd like to store your items: options include shelves, lockable cabinets, overhead storage, hooks, trays, crates, boxes and bag. If you're a DIY type, you can order products online and install them yourself. Or you can call garage organization companies like OnWall Solutions to come to your home and set up your garage in style.

What goes where

Gardening equipment:

- Store near the door to the garden. A rolling garden tool organizer is very useful, and a lockable cabinet for storing fertilizers and other hazardous chemicals is a must, especially if kids are about. Long-handled tools can go on hooks or in a barrel.

Sporting goods:

- Hang hockey bags from hooks. Ventilated storage (i.e. wire bins or extra hooks) let stinky equipment dry.
- Store snowboards and skis overhead. Balls and other small pieces of equipment should live in a bin. Light pool or swimming equipment can go in overhead nets or mesh.
- Hang bikes from a wall, but put them close to an exit so the car doesn't get scratched while they're maneuvered in and out. Kids should be able to get their bikes themselves.

Decorations:

- Keep holiday items out of the way in bins or in net bags hung from the ceiling.

DIY:

- Automotive equipment, power tools and paints or solvents often live at the head of the garage on shelves or in cabinets; lockable storage for dangerous items is again key.
- Ladders do well overhead. Wheelbarrows and other big equipment need a dedicated space so they're accessible but out of the way.

Decorations:

- Save space for current items. In winter you'll want snow shovels handy, but in summer they can go on a back wall.
- Give yourself a weekend for cleanup, so half-organized items aren't sitting in your driveway for weeks. And avoid doing the job on a rainy or snowy cold day.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in home decor and design. She has written extensively for the TV show Arresting Design.

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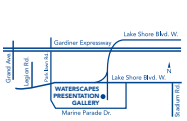

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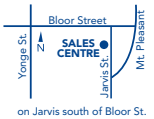

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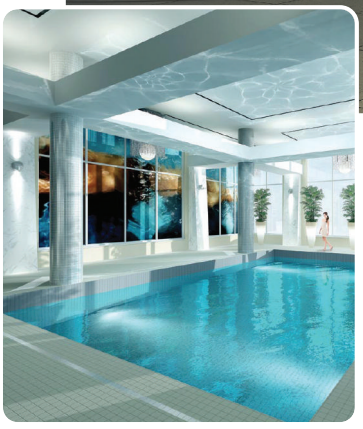

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LegalMatters

Jeffrey D. Cowan
jeff@cowanandtaylor.com

Q I signed an Agreement of Purchase and Sale in May of 2007 for a new condominium and I am now scheduled to close the transaction after living in my new condo on an interim basis for seven months. My lawyer is telling me that the GST applicable to the transaction is the sum that was in force when I signed the contract. This seems unfair because the GST rate has gone from 7 per cent to 5 per cent from when I signed until when I finally purchased. What should I do?

A You raise a very interesting question because there are thousands of people out there who are in exactly the same position as you. Technically, the rate that applied when you signed the Agreement is the one that you should be paying. However, the government has been forthcoming on this matter and realized that you can't retroactively charge GST when payment doesn't happen for a couple of years after the agreement has been reached.

Their solution is as follows: you have to pay the GST on the purchase (part of which is refunded because you are buying a new home) that was applicable at the time of the purchase. However, what most buyers don't know is that you can apply for a rebate on the difference between the two rates and the federal government will provide you with a refund up to a certain purchase limit.

Most of our clients in this situation fill out the government form by themselves and submit it to the Canada Revenue Agency that originally collected the 7 per cent GST, but for a small fee, your lawyer should be able to assist you with the form and the submission.

Imagine, a rebate from the government that could amount to several thousands of dollars based upon the value of your purchase.

Jeffrey D. Cowan is the principal of Cowan & Taylor, Barristers & Solicitors, jeff@cowanandtaylor.com. The information contained in this article should not be relied upon as legal advice.

Furniture makers shrink designs

Even before these days of shrinking economic expectations, furniture makers were getting the message from consumers: small is the new black.

A trend at this week's High Point Market is for smaller furniture that fits into smaller living spaces. The twice-a-year furniture industry trade show in High Point, N.C., displays thousands of new home furnishings that consumers could see in stores in a few months.

Furniture manufacturers are responding to downsizing baby boomers and the growing appeal of urban living by reducing the scale of dressers, coffee tables, night stands, and the like. They are compressing home offices into a single fold-out cabinet. And they're cutting back the length of sofas and entertainment centres that sprawled across the length of the wall in McMansions.

"It's scaled down to the kind of residences that are selling today," Magnussen Home Furnishings chief marketing officer Don Essenberg said Monday, the trade fair's opening day.

An example is the Micro-Office by Sligh Furniture Co. of Holland, Mich., which should be in retail stores by next spring, spokesman Bob Kreter said. The unit, with a retail price of $4,500, looks like an armoire 53 inches wide by 80 inches tall with nooks at the top for framed photos. But pull back the bifold doors and untuck the chair with the fold-down back and you can take a seat before a desk big enough for a laptop, printer and files.

Magnussen, based in New Hamburg, Ont., has reduced the scale of their entire bedroom sets, Essenberg said. Its standard dresser size has been trimmed from 72 inches wide to 64 inches to fit into smaller rooms, but its height increased to match higher ceilings and retain storage capacity.

Magnussen started downscaling about three years ago in response to its consumer studies.

"Our sales have shifted from 70 per cent overscaled to 70 per cent the smaller scale now," Essenberg said. "When it comes to scale, we've seen a return to what many in the industry have seen as a more appropriate and normal scale in furniture. It's less grandiose than we have seen in a decade or so." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Organization

- Smaller furniture also is part of a trend which shows consumers increasingly want to eliminate clutter and organize what's left, said Pam Danziger, president of Unity Marketing.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Buyers at the Estates of Guildwood Village can choose from two home styles. The Courtyards feature a unique amenity space between the garage and the main house, and some models offer extra living space above the garage. The other style is Traditional, catering to a comfortable sense of what is familiar while still providing a lot of house for the money.

Time is running out at Estates of Guildwood Village

Autumn's chill has had no influence on buyers' warm reception of SENTEX Homes' Estates of Guildwood Village.

The model home (Coach House, 3,139 square feet) opened on Jan. 16, 2008. In less than six months, Phase 1 sold out. Now, only four lots in Phase 2 remain — the rest were snapped up by eager buyers aware of the tremendous value of these uniquely designed homes.

During open house weekends, visitors — sometimes singly, some in groups — came to the model home, often visiting more than once! Several returned with relatives and friends in tow, and in a couple of cases, parents who are long-time area residents were instrumental in their children's purchase of a new home at the Estates of Guildwood Village. When asked why they steered their children toward the development, parents stated that they felt their children were getting full advantage of the family- and community-centred environment for which Guildwood Village is famous. Besides, add the parents, the homes at the Estates of Guildwood Village are so beautifully laid out and stunningly appointed that they feel their children's investment could only increase in value as time goes by.

When buying from plans, purchasers can tailor their interiors to fit their needs. Provided no load bearing walls or mechanicals are compromised, the builder will move walls — even laundries and bathrooms — at no extra charge. Buyers have only been too happy with this bonus, and of the homes that have been sold so far, every floor plan has been modified by the owner. Some buyers said that they are employing their creativity to the fullest, because they have no plans of moving ever again.

What comes standard with the homes at the Estates of Guildwood Village? To start, living rooms and dining rooms have pre-finished natural oak floors, and staircases are hardwood with matching rails, pickets, risers and stringers. Kitchens have granite countertops and the main floors boast nine-foot ceilings. All homes feature 200 amps, are centrally air conditioned, and best of all, the elegant exteriors are architecturally controlled to form an impressive yet gracious streetscape.

Purchasers can choose from a wide range of upgrades to personalize their homes even more, in consultation with the interior design team provided by SENTEX Homes.

Buyers at the Estates of Guildwood Village can choose from two home styles. The Courtyards feature a unique amenity space between the garage and the main house, and some models offer extra living space above the garage. The other style is Traditional, catering to a comfortable sense of what is familiar while still providing a lot of house for the money.

Guildwood Village provides residents with a wonderful ambiance of country living, surrounded by mature trees, nature trails and parks, yet boasts modern amenities and easy access to major transportation routes.

SENTEX Homes will continue to shoulder the City of Toronto Land Transfer Tax and the cost of hookups and levies at closing. In addition, buyers will receive a bonus credit of $10,000 that can be applied toward interior upgrades or landscaping.

These luxury detached homes range in size from 2,516 to 3,507 square feet and are priced from the high-$500,000s.

The model home/sales centre is located at 6 Portia St., and is open weekends and holidays from noon until 6 p.m. Call Marisa Roque at 416-266-5121 for weekday appointments, or visit estatesofguildwood.com.

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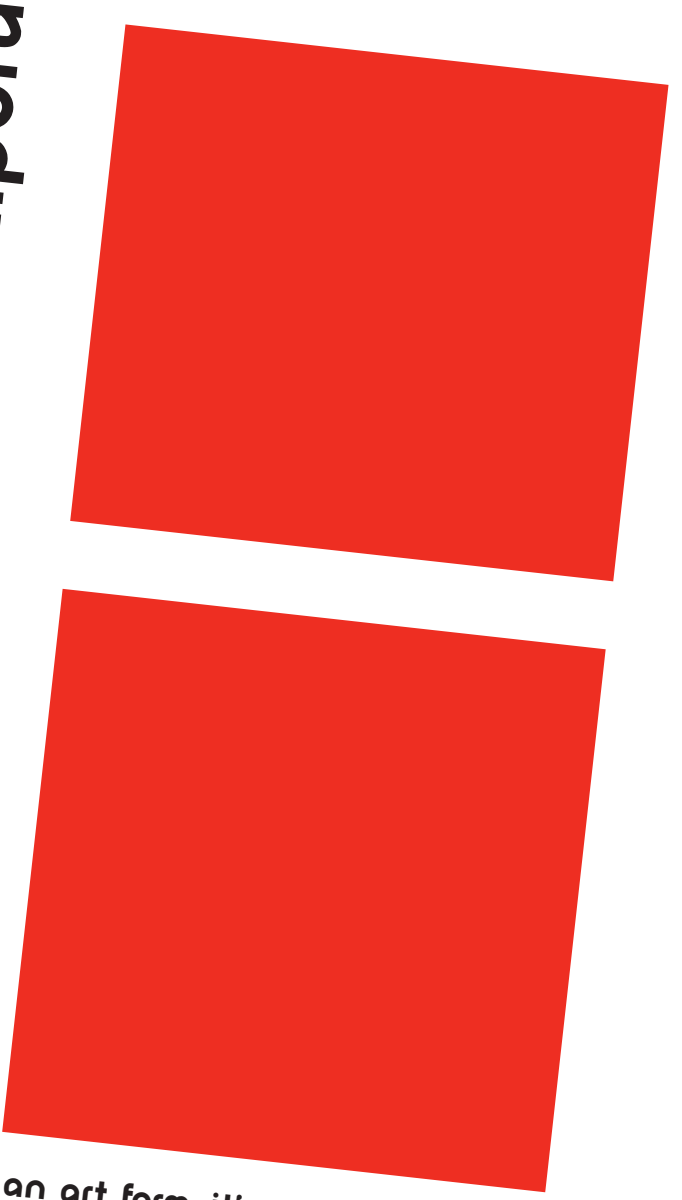

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Return of the buyer's market

TheHunt
Amit Paul

amitp@rogers.com

Ever run into an ex from many years ago, feel that spark and excitement return alongside anxiety, and you weren't sure why? Well, believe it or not but that's how many of us are feeling today as we say hello once again to an old friend, "Buyer's Market."

Before you turn and head for the hills you may want to take a moment and get reacquainted with this long lost friend, and sometimes foe. See what's brought her back into town and how long she plans on sticking around, not to mention what this old friend may have in store for us.

Does it return carrying guns or roses? Well, it really depends on your situation. If you're looking to buy, especially for the long run (five years and more) your ex never looked better. As prices fall in many areas, and stabilize in the most popular areas, it's important to remember that real estate remains a very sound long-term investment. There's no better time to purchase this asset than when the market conditions favour low prices. Of course, if you're a seller, chances are you have a different outlook. Nobody wants an ex showing up at the wrong time, and for some homeowners out there that's exactly when this buyer's market has settled in.

One piece of advice for sellers is to consider the immediate present. If you happen to be in a position where selling is your goal, do it immediately, and that way you can at least take advantage of this buyer's market at the most opportune time — the winter. That is, of course, if you will be buying upon selling.

Should real estate be avoided altogether? In a word, no. Arguably one of the savviest real estate mogels of all time, you may know him as The Donald, has publicly bolstered that a significant reason he's amassed his fortune is because he insisted on buying when no one else would. It surprises me how a scenario termed "buyer's market" can initiate avoiding the market like the plague. Consider that the past few years, when the market was very much a seller's market, buyers were lapping up real estate like candy on Halloween.

Herein lies one of the most significant truths in real estate. Of course, while times are good people will spend, and will do so with the utmost confidence. However, when times are not as good, as today's market uncertainty would dictate, those of us that can find the logic and courage to spend are the ones that will take advantage of the eventual seller's market to its fullest. Especially those of us looking to purchase for investment sake should certainly take this market as a gift, not curse. Anyone with a sense of history can attest to that.

If you have to sell, are you doomed? No. Of course, if you had sold 12 months ago, or were selling perhaps 18 to 24 months from now, you'd be sitting prettier, but there are things you can do to ensure that this ex doesn't leave you high and dry. All the things that would normally secure you the highest and best price, such as staging, pricing right, showing feedback, and so forth, must be carried out to the T. You need to put yourself in a position to move fast. Assess your competition and play off it. If now is really the time, don't spend an extra week moving furniture into the garage. While your ex can be handled amicably, even as a seller, if she thinks she can lure you to a stall, leave you naked and run off with your clothes, she will.

How long is this going to last? While it's tough to gauge, an estimate of 18 to 24 months seems reasonable. Any shorter and it's not a real correction. Any longer just doesn't seem realistic at this time. The other thing to take away from this is if you're buying for the relative long term — five years plus — your ex has no hold over you as chances are she'll be long gone by then. Happy hunting.

Amit is a Realtor/Developer with Re/Max. amitp@rogers.com

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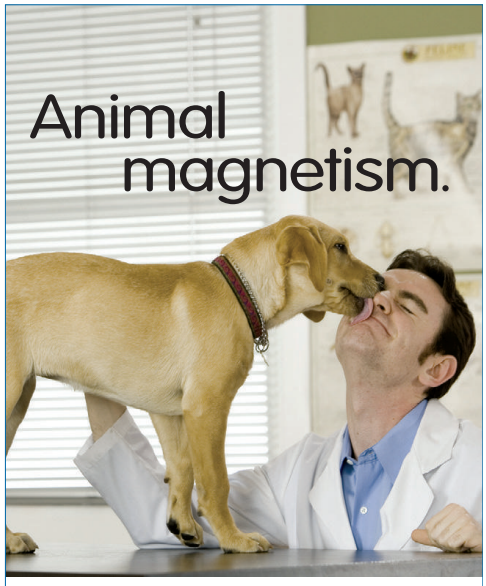

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Maroon 5 will perform at Fashion Week

The grand finale to L'Oreal Fashion Week on Saturday will be a performance by Grammy-winning U.S. pop-rock group Maroon 5, while Wayne Clark, Mikhael Kale and Greta Constantine showcase collections. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Style

Monica Cruz inspired by the '50s

Spanish actress Monica Cruz was in Toronto to promote the fashion line she co-designed with big sister Penelope Cruz, the Hollywood actor. The limited-edition collection for Mango, in stores now, features evening wear and some vintage-inspired styles. The actress breezed into the tents at Nathan Phillips Square on Monday evening with her translator in tow. "She says she is inspired by the American pinups of the 1950s," the translator said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Free-flowing

Designers let loose with dramatic draping on Day 2 of Fashion Week

Designers let loose on Day two of L'Oreal Fashion Week with creations that placed the emphasis on more free-flowing silhouettes, adding dramatic draping and fluid detailing to their creations.

Bustle: The menswear line harkened back to the era of luxury travel in a collection crafted for the contemporary jet-setter.

White, tan, faded blues and blacks dominated the colour palette, which featured tailored suits and collared shirts with variations on striping, from a more subtle pinstripe pattern to bolder horizontal white lines on darker blazers and matching pants.

Vintage maps were used to create a custom print on the fabric lining the back of select jackets and vests. The design even appeared in full as a bold statement blazer to underscore the motif.

Walking out onto the runway against the backdrop of a private jet parked on the tarmac and projected on-screen, models fully embodied the travel theme, strutting coolly down the runway sporting aviators. Some even accessorizing the stylish pieces with a leather weekend bag with a bottle of Scotch whisky tucked in for good measure.

David Dixon: The womenswear designer brought a sensual but edgy feel to his latest collection, "Walk to Freedom," with a mix of pieces that blended structure and softness.

Floor-skimming printed charmeuse gowns and hibiscus silk print tops and dresses shared the runway with more textured, almost 3-D pieces, like a memorable dress boasting unusual but eye-catching jagged porcupine leather strips.

Striking stone jewelry added a strong accent to streamlined, elegant tank and strapless pocketed dresses in icy greys and silvers.

Joeffer Caoc: The vibrant colours that dominated the womenswear designer's last spring/summer collection were absent this time around, but his sense of elegant style continues to reign supreme, as Joeffer Caoc's latest works continue to evoke an effortless ease and sensuality with a showcase of free-flowing, feminine pieces.

The collection, dubbed "Nude" was just that, comprised solely of creations featuring tan, white, ivory and black.

Graphic elements like dramatic black etchings made simple yet elegant statements on both a tucked wedge dress and a tucked top effectively paired with an ivory tie leg pant.

Sequins lent a touch of sparkle and dramatic accents to a shrug paired with a satin pyjama pant and matching tank.

NADA: Crashing waves, a soaring opera solo and towering Greek columns stationed at the opening of the runway set the stage for the unveiling of Nada Shepherd's ethereal new collection.

Inspired by Athena, the Greek goddess of war, wisdom and the arts, Shepherd showcased contemporary creations of classic style boasting fluid, free-form silhouettes.

The striking floor-skimming fuschia creation that closed the show featured elegant braided strap detailing along the neckline and cuffs and Grecian-inspired draping.

Gold metallic discs were used to eye-popping effect with a standalone spaghetti-strapped dress awash with them to a more minimalist accent to the waistline of multi-tone dresses.

Aqua Di Lara: Montreal-based designer Reyhan Sofraci revved up the temperature in the chilly confines of the runway room with barely-there bikinis and monikinis from her luxury swimwear line, which managed to strike a balance between sexiness and elegance.

Metallics loomed large, including a shimmering string bikini and a striking houndstooth print, both showcased in black and grey. Yet one-pieces and bikinis spanned the colour spectrum, including white, plum and a glistening flame coral with a gold iridescent overlay.

Swimsuit styles ranged from halter to criss-cross and one-shoulder pieces, and gold, silver and jewelled accents lent added dazzle to the suits.

Signature peek-a-boo cutouts could be spotted among several of the elaborately constructed suits, including a navel-baring monokini.

Day two also featured runway presentations from Diesel Kids, Jason Meyers and Karamea.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

David Dixon's "Walk to Freedom" collection, seen left and below left.

Nada's collection, right, was inspired by Greek goddess Athena.

Aqua Di Lara's navel-baring monokini, below left. Luxury travel was the theme for Bustle's menswear line, right.

PHOTOS BY NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

L'Oreal Fashion Week in Toronto

OTHER WAYS TO CATCH THE SPRING 2009 COLLECTIONS

- Those not able to get an invite inside the event at Nathan Phillips Square, steps from Toronto City Hall, will be able to see it unfold via a see-through wall on the event tent as well as on an outdoor projection.
- Others who can't attend can still get a taste of the action from the comfort of their living rooms when Fashion Television airs a special on the event on CTV Nov. 9.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NADA makeup look at L'Oreal Fashion Week

See a demo of NADA's runway makeup for L'Oreal Fashion Week at *youtube.com/watch?v=lxy09zIzj0E*. The look was created by Eddie Maleterre, official makeup artist for L'Oreal Paris in Canada and L'Oreal Fashion Week's artistic director. METRO NEWS SERVICE

Glamour girls

Designer channels '50s and '60s-era girls for latest Pink Tartan collection

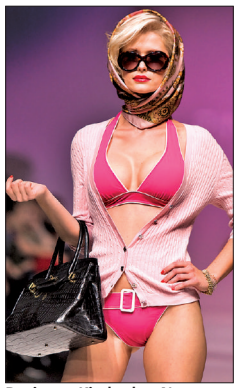
Designer Kimberley Newport-Mimran set style-watchers on a time-travelling journey, channelling iconic images of '50s and '60s-era glamour girls in the latest collection for Pink Tartan presented at L'Oreal Fashion Week on Monday night.

Form-fitting silhouettes loomed large, from sexy, body-hugging underwire bustier-style halters and bathing suits, to slender pencil skirts and cigarette slim pants, while barely-there shorts and bubble-silhouette skirts featured higher-than-usual waists.

Cosy cardigans were slung effortlessly across the shoulders of models wearing buttoned-down, three-quarter length collared blouses featuring folded cuffs cinched with gold clasps.

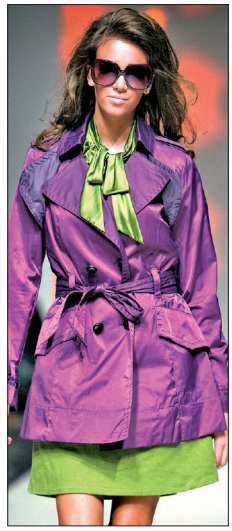
Bright hues like red, yellow and salmon provided contrast to black and neutral tones, while prints also found their way in the mix, including a bold, black-and-white four-leaf clover pattern on bustiers, bathing suits and collared dresses. White piping details added extra detailing to slim-fitting pants and a pink halter bikini.

Models donning printed headscarves paired with oversized glasses and ruby red pouts while clutching Birkin-style handbags evoked cool confidence and helped capture the classic essence of eras gone by without stifling the contemporary feel of the creations. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Designer Kimberley Newport-Mimran rewinds time with her latest Pink Tartan spring collection. It features slender pencil and bubble-silhouette skirts, bustier-style halters and headscarves paired with oversized glasses.

PHOTOS BY FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS



PHOTOS BY FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rich shades of purple and green, including lilac, eggplant, plum and emerald jewel tones dominated Mango's fall/winter collection, shown Monday night at L'Oreal Fashion Week.

Mango adds a touch of romance

While the latest edition of L'Oreal Fashion Week has its sights set on forecasting the hot trends for next spring and summer, fashion fans got a taste of style creations for the impending cooler months from Mango on Monday night.

The retailer closed out day one of Fashion Week festivities with a showcase of its fall/winter collection dubbed "Romance" for its feminine touch in clothing details and "romantic" floral mood, including gardenia prints in olive tones and paisley prints.

Neutral-toned attire like cable knits in grey and ivory and khaki cargo pants transitioned later to bolder hues, largely dominated by rich shades of purple and green, including lilac, eggplant, plum and emerald jewel tones.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alfred Sung **Takes his bow**

KEITH BEATY/TORONTO STAR NEWS SERVICE

Designer Alfred Sung walks down the runway after the showing of his new bridal gown collection, "The White Collection," which launched L'Oreal Fashion Week on Monday.

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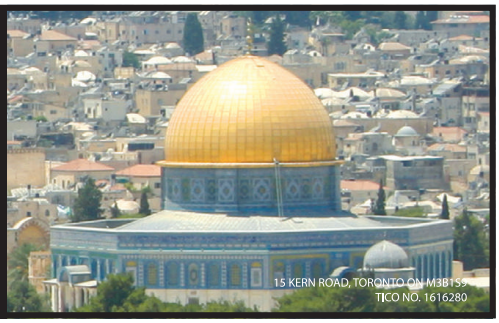

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Tonight at L'Oreal Fashion Week
The Morales runway show tonight at 6 p.m. will feature handmade dresses inspired by birds and flowers, mostly in pastel colors. The collection pays homage to Japanese artist Yoshitomo Nara. METRO NEWS SERVICE

Style File

Kim Elbo
kim.elbo@metronews.ca

ask kim

I always hear about sample sales but never know when and where they are. Is there a site I could look at that has listings of sample sales?

Sample sales are one of the best places to look for designer clothing at almost cost prices. Check out national websites like *styledemocracy.com* or *ilovesamplesalesonline.com* and remember to always arrive early to ensure first pick on sizes and styles.

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.

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Shop: Various Locations
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Extra Protection
Designer: American Eagle
Shop: American Eagle
Address: Various Locations
ae.com

Sporty
Designer: Bolle
Shop: Various Locations
Address: Various Locations
bollé.com

Classic
Designer: D&G
Shop: Sunglass Hut
Address: Various Locations
sunglasshut.com

necklaces

This seasons necklaces are all about layered chains, little charms and mixed metals. The necklace by designer Melissa Clemente is an excellent example of the look for this season. Try these necklaces on top of a plain white T-shirt or dress and I guarantee it will look polished and pulled together. And remember: always spend a little more money on real jewelry. Some costume jewelry bought at inexpensive prices can end up wearing off on you, breaking or even carrying a strong metal odour.

sunglasses

Sometimes we forget that we need protection from the sun during the fall and winter months. Steer clear from sun damage around the eyes with sunglasses that wrap around and have thicker stems that protect you from all sides. When you're out shopping try to stay away from flashy labels that can be seen a block away. Instead, opt for something that is simple and not labeled with faux diamonds — this style will give you more wear in the long run.

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Nobody does it better!

Daniel Craig returns as the suave and sexy spy in Quantum of Solace

By **David Giammarco**
Contributing Writer

If the title of the latest Bond flick, Quantum of Solace, is a little baffling, it's meant to be. It was the name of a short story in Bond creator Ian Fleming's 1960 anthology For Your Eyes Only, and it also reflects a shift in the 46-year-old Bond franchise. "We could have gone for a snappier title, but we made a huge effort on Casino Royale to take the series to a new place," explains Daniel Craig. "This title is meant to make you curious. Fleming always had a very emotional line running through his books, and that's where we left the last movie." Indeed, Casino Royale ended with a broken-hearted and grieving James Bond grappling with the betrayal and death of Vesper Lynd (played by Eva Green), his love interest. Bent on revenge, he's now hunting for answers and closure — hence finding his "quantum of solace." Personally, Craig found his "solace" when *Casino Royale* became the highest-grossing Bond film to date, pulling in over $600 million worldwide. While there were some initial grumblings about Craig having been chosen as the new Bond, the critics praised his darkly nuanced portrayal of the iconic superspy. But now the stakes are even higher. "I thought that if Casino Royale failed, I could just walk away and say 'Okay, I screwed that up' and go off and try something else," confesses Craig with a huge laugh. "Now, we have to prove that the last one wasn't just a fluke—this is even more important to me now than it was before."

Quantum of Solace opens on Nov. 14.

NATURAL RESOURCES

This fall, earth angels go glam with a sophisticated twist.

EXPERT Jacquie Hutchinson, makeup artist and national product trainer for Revlon Canada

● Prep skin with primer and then apply a cream-based foundation with your fingertips. Follow with a dusting of translucent loose powder. ● Select an eyeshadow shade slightly darker than your natural lid colour; sweep it from the lash line to just above the crease. ● Use a brown pencil to line the roots of the upper lash line, and finish with a coat of brown mascara. ● Apply a peachy-brown lipstick with a lip brush. SARAH DANIEL DOLPHIN

SOFT TOUCH

Textures you can't resist.

STUDIO ANDRÉ DOYON

EDITORS' PICK

Metal Queen

To make an explicit statement, go for the real hardware. This fall, necklaces speak volumes by themselves. Pair a dramatic piece with a pared down ensemble for a fashion-forward look.

Heart of Glass Plastron necklace (18,600, Louis Vuitton)

STYLE SNAPS

Forget the runways—ELLECanada.com snapped behind-the-scenes pics of Canada's fashionable flock at L'Oréal Fashion Week Spring 2009! Check out our style galleries at *ellecanada.com/stylesnaps!*

ABOVE: Kirk Pickersgill and Stephen Wong, of Greta Constantine, with a model.

RIGHT: Bold statement accessories by Canadian jewellery designer Dandi Maestre.

PHOTOS: RACHEL SINGER

Kate Moss Style: Angela Buttolph

INSIDE THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS WARDROBE
KATE MOSS STYLE
ANGELA BUTTOLPH

THE ELEMENTS OF STYLE

Kate Moss, 34, has come a long way from Croydon. After years of posing for most major labels (Chanel, YSL), she's now a one-woman brand with her own line of affordable clothing (Kate Moss Topshop), eponymous perfumes (Kate by Kate Moss and Velvet Hour) and even a range of hair-care products (James Brown London). But emulating Moss' unique personal style has remained elusive — until now: British fashion journalist Angela Buttolph's Kate Moss Style celebrates, deconstructs and distills the icon's fashion formula. Consider it a style handbook for the rest of us. NATHALIE ATKINSON

ELLE CANADA

Anne Hathaway opens up about fame, heartbreak and her hot new film, only in our November issue!

www.ellecanada.com

Watts in talks to play outspoken teacher
Actress Naomi Watts is set to play Nobel Prize winner and controversial peace campaigner Jody Williams in a new biopic. Watts is in talks to take on the role of the outspoken teacher who became known for her work on the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. IMDB.COM

Entertainment

More Dexter
Showtime has picked up Dexter (starring Michael C. Hall) for two more seasons. Seasons 4 and 5 will consist of 12 episodes each, with production to start this spring in Los Angeles. TVGUIDE.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

AC/DC powers up on old riffs

AC/DC

Album: Black Ice
Label: Columbia/Sony BMG
Rating: ●●●

ONE FORMULA DRIVES this five-member Aussie institution — rock 'n' roll. Want proof? Three songs make reference to it; one more says they're "rocking." Really. But would you honestly expect, 35 years on, that schoolboy-dressing blues-metal riffmeister Angus Young et al would dare reinvent themselves as power balladeers or into techno remixes or sappy country-pop? That said, this first new AC/DC effort in eight years, er, rocks more with the energy of 1995's Ballbreaker than 1980's Back In Black, lacking many of Young's hook-laden intros, filled instead with some very ZZ Top-meets-CCR swampy rhythms and nary a lyrical call to raise hell.

Ian Nathanson/for Metro Canada

Sebastien Grainger

Album: Sebastien Grainger & The Mountains
Label: Outside
Rating: ●●●●

SEBASTIEN GRAINGER PULLS himself out of the crater left by Death From Above 1979 for his first full-length solo effort. Grainger discovers that he doesn't have to use a rubber mallet to drive home his point. There's surprisingly strong melody behind the bending walls of roughly textured rock. And he earns extra points for being able to craft an indie-rock anthem around the chorus "I hate my friends, most of the time." Even the noise sounds sweet here.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Cold War Kids

Album: Loyalty to Loyalty
Label: Downtown/Warner
Rating: ●●●●

SHH — IT'S HOW you use it. Many bands don't use silence at all. It's like they're afraid of it, filling in as many notes as they can on whatever instruments they can get their hands on. Not the Cold War Kids. The Long Beach, Calif., foursome excel on Loyalty to Loyalty's spare, unhurried arrangements. Check out Against Privacy and Every Man I Fall For. Every note counts. Drummer Matt Aveiro's comments hit you in the gut like bad news. Loyalty to Loyalty also features some captivating vignettes, particularly Golden Gate Jumpers and Every Valley Is Not a Lake. At their best at their bluesiest, occasionally the Cold War Kids slip into parody, and singer Nathan Willett into affectation. But that's only occasionally.

Jim Reyno/Metro Canada

SONY BMG PHOTO

The first new AC/DC disc in eight years rocks more with the energy of Ballbreaker than Back In Black.

Jill Barber

Album: Chances
Label: Outside
Rating: ●●●½

AFTER WINNING OVER the roots community with her 2006 folkie CD, For All Time, Jill Barber offers up a charming bit of '40s retro with producer-arranger Les Cooper doing an exquisite job of capturing the big band sounds of Guy Lombardo and Nelson Riddle. Barber's throaty voice swings out bluesy gospel originals (Oh My My, Wishing Well) and slides through satin-sheet romance (Take It Off Your Mind). But the star of the show is Cooper's orchestration. All taste and style.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Of Montreal

Album: Skeletal Lamping
Label: Polydor
Rating: ●●½

KEVIN BARNES' WACKY songwriting has been the driving force behind Of Montreal's success. But has the Athens, Ga. native gone too far here? Assuming the hyper-sexual persona of alter-ego Georgie Fruit, Barnes blasts through 15 songs of sunny pop, curious R&B and Scissor Sister-like sounds. While the weird time changes and odd harmonies are still there, the bizarre lyrics and more-confusing-than-usual songwriting make Skeletal Lamping a tough record to get into.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Album Reviews

music@metronews.ca

The Dears

Album: Missles
Label: Dangerbird/MapleMusic
Rating: ●●½

THE STAGE WAS set for Montreal's The Dears to reach Feist-like heights this year, but their new album may derail their momentum. Murray Lightburn and Natalia Yanchak are the only original members at the helm now, and it shows. With a bevy of long-winded tunes and forced drama many fans will be longing for the Dears of old. Saying that, there's no question that Missles gets better with each spin, though, it might take more than a few repeats to embrace this effort.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Bend Sinister

Album: Stories of Brothers, Tales of Lovers **Label:** Distort
Rating: ●●

THIS COLLECTION OF borrowed '70s prog-rock guitar hooks and organ runs too often comes off sounding like a mashup of outtakes from Elton's John's Goodbye Yellow-brick Road, Supertramp's Crime of the Century, and Queen's A Day At the Races. This talented Vancouver quintet has created a record that is as irritating as it is interesting. The problem with wearing your influences on your sleeve is that you're always going to be compared to them, usually unfavourably.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Read our review of The Organ's new EP Thieves at metronews.ca/music

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Vaughn in talks with Fox over new TV comedy

Actor Vince Vaughn is in final talks with 20th Century Fox TV to develop and executive produce a single-camera, half-hour comedy about two guys fresh out of college who are about to strike out in the big bad world on their own for the first time. **E! NEWS ONLINE**

Ballet baby boom

Three ballerinas with the National Ballet of Canada are pregnant and expecting their first child.

First soloist Tanya Howard, first soloist Rebekah Rimsay and second soloist Lisa Robinson are all due in the new year.

Robinson will appear in the North American premiere of The Seagull in November before her maternity leave and will return for the 2009-10 season.

Howard and Rimsay are expected to return to the ballet company for the 2009 summer season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Carrie on A different ball of wax

BRYAN BEDDER/GETTY IMAGES

Country singer and former American Idol Carrie Underwood meets her wax figure, on the right, during its unveiling at Madame Tussauds yesterday in New York City.

It's L'Oreal Fashion Week in Toronto

TODAY'S LINEUP AT NATHAN PHILLIPS SQUARE:

- 1 p.m.: Liza Deyrmenjian Fashion Business Seminar (Fashion Environment)
- 3 p.m.: League of Lovers & Thieves (The Studio)
- 4 p.m.: BODYBAG by Jude (The Studio)
- 5 p.m.: Evan & Dean
- 6 p.m.: Morales
- 7 p.m.: RUDSAK
- 8 p.m.: gsus sindustries
- 9 p.m.: BUFFALO DAVID BITTON

LOREALFASHIONWEEK.CA

Read our exclusive Lou Lou coverage of L'Oreal Fashion Week at metronews.ca/style

In brief

IN COURT Britney Spears has a licence to go free. Jurors in Los Angeles remained deadlocked 10-2 on whether the singer was guilty of driving without a valid California licence Tuesday. A mistrial was declared and prosecutors said they wouldn't pursue the matter further.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VIRGIN FRIENDS UNITE
At The Mad Hatter's Ball

PLANET MAURIE PHOTO

Virgin Radio's **Mad Dog** chats with Virgin guru **Sir Richard Branson**, who hosted his annual fundraising gala "The Mad Hatter's Ball", and also starred comic Kathy Griffin and singer Natalie Imbruglia. The topic of conversation was both about his outstanding charity work that **Virgin Unite** does and Branson's new book "Business Stripped Bare" which is in stores now.

For more on Virgin Unite go to virginunite.com

To hear the interview with Mad Dog & Richard Branson go to virginradio999.com

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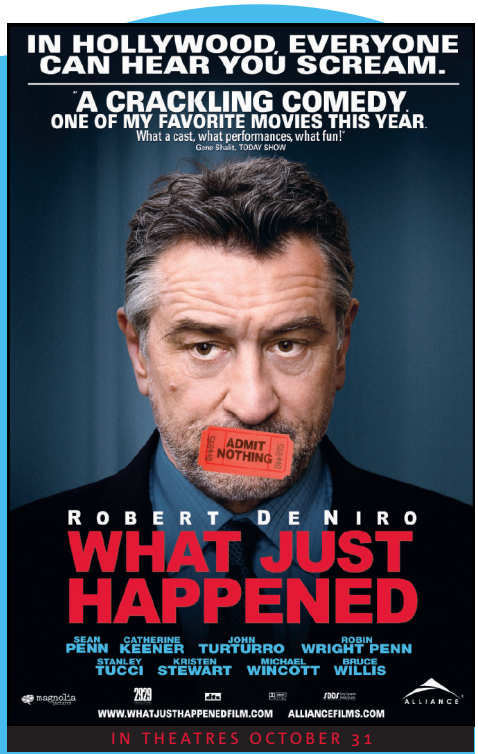

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Raimi has eyes set on Spider-Man 4 and 5

Spider-Man director Sam Raimi has hinted the fourth and fifth installments of the hit movie franchise could be shot simultaneously. The fourth film is due for release in 2011 with original superhero star Tobey Maguire returning as the web-slinging crime fighter. IMDB.COM

High School Musical's senior year

Third installment in popular Disney franchise sings and dances into theatres tomorrow

STEVE VEALE
for Metro Canada

To paraphrase Roger Daltry: The kids are still all right.

"We have the best fans in the world," said Olesya Rulin, who has appeared in all three of Disney's High School Musical movies. "It's just been mind blowing to be a part of all this."

Mind blowing is a good way to describe the song-and-dance movie sensation that has captivated every teen and preteen in North America.

The saga of the thespian students attending Albuquerque's Eastside High continues tomorrow when Disney rolls out the third entry in the series.

Along with returning stars like Rulin — who plays Kelsi Nielsen — High School Musical 3: Senior Year will feature new members of the student body played by Justin Martin and Matt Prokop.

"We were welcomed by the regulars right away," said 18-year-old Martin, who plays Donny Dion.

"The first day we all ended up playing Rock Band (on the computer) and watching movies in Ashley's (Tisdale) trailer."

"It really is like an HSM family," added Prokop, who, along with his castmates, was in Toronto this week to promote the film.

The cast had a mere five-week rehearsal schedule, and a very economic 44-day shoot, to pull High School Musical 3 together.

"That's less than half of a regular film musical," said director Kenny Ortega.

"We could accomplish that because the kids were so well versed in the production."

Still, it's obvious from the three actors' laughter that they had a terrific time together filming. All three got longboards and followed series star Zac Efron while he skateboarded around the set.

"We could accomplish (the tight schedule) because the kids were so well versed in the production."
Director Kenny Ortega

"We did get in trouble for that," admitted Prokop. "After all, if Zac sprained an ankle he wouldn't be able to do his dance numbers."

Needless to say, the boards were put in storage until shooting was wrapped.

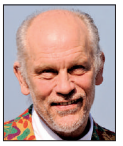
Being forced into more sedentary pastimes, the cast got a vinyl kiddie pool, pulled up some lawn chairs, soaked their feet after labourous dance numbers, and enjoyed the Utah heat — where filming took place.

Olesya Rulin, far left, in High School Musical 3 with fellow actresses KayCee Stroh, Britt Stewart, Vanessa Hudgens, Monique Coleman.

Malkovich directing Spanish version of The Good Canary

THEATRE John Malkovich knows the play The Good Canary inside and out.

In fact, he can direct it in three different languages. After tackling a French version in Paris, Malkovich takes on a Spanish version of writer Zach Helm's tale of a frustrated writer struggling with his wife's addiction to amphetamines. Never mind that Malkovich, who appears in the movie Burn After Reading, isn't fluent in either language.



John Malkovich

Mexican actor Diego Luna said Tuesday in a news conference that Malkovich could direct The Good Canary in any language because he understands the play so well. Luna, of The Terminal and Y Tu Mama Tambien, interprets the play's lead character, writer Jack Parker.

The play opens Nov. 26 for 10 weeks in Mexico City's Teatro Insurgentes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Another comic book hero to make big screen magic?

Marvel president Kevin Feige wants to bring comic book hero Dr. Strange to the big screen. The studio boss has hinted that a movie adaptation of the Sorcerer Supreme could be in the works as soon as 2012. IMDB.COM

Dr. Phil facing lawsuit

The memorabilia dealer who led O.J. Simpson to a hotel room where an infamous robbery occurred has filed suit against the Dr. Phil show.

In it, Thomas Riccio claims his remarks in an interview were spliced to change their meaning. The Oct. 6 interview aired Oct. 8.

Riccio, who testified at Simpson's recent kidnapping-robbery trial, sued Philip McGraw — known on the show as Dr. Phil — and Stage 29 Media for unspecified damages.

The lawsuit claims defamation, fraud, emotional distress and being portrayed in a false light.

Riccio said that on the show he was referred to as the shady deal maker, a puppet master who would sell his soul for a coin, and the ring leader of a crime.

He said that during the show, McGraw falsely claimed that Riccio set O.J. Simpson up and told people to bring guns into the room.

Riccio said his denial of those statements and his claim that he is anti-gun were edited out and replaced with a shot of him nodding his head as if in agreement with the host.

"Had plaintiff been aware of defendants' intent and their intended actions, he would not have agreed to do the interview," the lawsuit stated.

Theresa Corigliano, a spokeswoman for Dr. Phil, would not comment.

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Hathaway signs on for another wedding flick
Anne Hathaway is set to star in Warner Bros. The Fiance. She will play a woman who calls off her wedding, only to find her family feels sorry for the jilted groom. EW.COM

Star Wars game in works

Multiplayer, online format from BioWare set 4 millennia before films

Star Wars is hyperspeeding to an even longer time ago.

The next chapter in George Lucas' ever-expanding franchise will be Star Wars: The Old Republic, a massively multiplayer online game set thousands of years before Darth Vader was born. The game is being developed by BioWare, the Electronic Arts-owned studio in Edmonton responsible for the first Knights of the Old Republic role-playing game in 2003.

"People have asked us why we're not making Knights of the Old Republic III," said BioWare senior content producer Dallas Dickinson about the much-rumoured-about game. "Our response is that we're actually making Knights of the Old Republic III through Knights of the Old Republic X — and we're releasing them all at once."

In the game, players can customize their own characters, align with the Jedi Order or Sith Lords and participate in adventures with other players on virtual worlds, such as Korriban and Tython. The Old Republic developers said they're focusing on storytelling and promise that Cold War-type events in the game would lay the groundwork for future lore.

"In an MMO, you usually do what you're told, whether it's go kill 10 dudes or find this artifact or whatever," said BioWare creative director James Ohlen. "You never get to make meaningful choices that are tough to make. That's something we're going to have in our game because Star Wars is all about the struggle between good and evil, light and dark."

The game will feature multiple companion characters — think Wookie sidekick Chewbacca and beeping droid R2-D2 from the films — that players can interact with during their adventures. Ohlen said the companion characters can be romanced, befriended or offended and will have a significant affect on the way players progress throughout the game.

The Old Republic will be LucasArts' second online Star Wars game. Star Wars: Galaxies was released in 2003, but the popularity of the multiplayer game — which takes place after Episode IV — has since dwindled. LucasArts online director Tom Nichols said Galaxies will remain open but will be completely separate from The Old Republic.

"The marketplace will obviously tell us what will happen," said Nichols. "We think the games can live side-by-side. They obviously have very different timelines and will have very different game mechanics. The Old Republic really has an emphasis on story."

LucasArts did not announce a release date for The Old Republic. The game, which will take place 3,600 years before the Star Wars films, has been in development since 2006, when BioWare opened a new studio in Austin, Texas. The last game in the series, Knights of the Old Republic II, was developed by Obsidian Entertainment and was released in 2004.

"It's the biggest game BioWare has ever done by order of magnitude," said Ohlen.

"We have a writing team that's three to four times larger than a normal writing team. We have more programmers and developers working on this game than any previous BioWare game."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Top games

- Star Wars: The Force Unleashed was among the top game rentals at Blockbuster Video Canada Oct.3-19:
- Wii — No. 1
- Playstation 2 — No. 2
- Playstation 3, XBox 360 — No. 3

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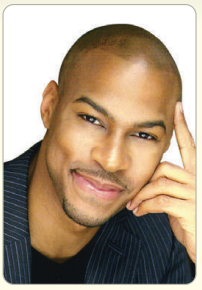

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Celebrity Buzz

SUV passengers sue Lindsay

LEGAL Lindsay Lohan is being sued by three men in an SUV she drove during a car chase leading to her second DUI arrest last year, People.com reports.

The actress was "angry and aggressive" and the men "felt surprise, shock, fear and panic at Lohan's surprising and sudden act" of allegedly commandeering a car in which they happened to be sitting to chase her personal assistant through the streets of Santa Monica, Calif., according to the lawsuit.

Lohan's attorney, Ed McPherson, tells TMZ.com the lawsuit is "absurd."

The plaintiffs — Ronnie Blake, Jakon Sutter and Dante Nigro — are seeking unspecified damages in the case, filed in Superior Court in Santa Monica.

Although nobody was physically injured, their suit describes a wild, traumatic ride with Lohan allegedly angry and intoxicated as she went after the other car following a party.

"Dante and Jakon continued to implore Lohan to slow down, stating specifically that she was endangering all of their lives and that they could be killed," the lawsuit says. "Lohan refused to slow or stop, but instead responded with abusive cursing and vulgar language, including a statement that she did not care about the risk of death."

The lawsuit adds: "She also stated that because she was a celebrity she could do whatever she wants."

Following her arrest, Lohan reached a plea deal in the case and spent 84 minutes in jail for DUI.

She also was sued by the passenger in the car she allegedly chased.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Pink had nuptial doubt

RELATIONSHIPS Singer Pink reportedly knew her marriage to Carey Hart would never last, because neither of them could handle such a big commitment, female-first.co.uk reports.

Pink, who split from motocross star Hart earlier this year after two years of marriage, admits she had her doubts right from the start, even though she was the one who proposed.

"I proposed to him by holding up a sign saying Marry Me when he was doing a motocross race. He nearly fell off his bike. To be honest, even when he said "Yes," I knew there was a little part of both of us that couldn't handle being married," said the star, whose real name is Alecia Moore. "We did it because we loved each other so much. We wanted to eat each other all the time we were together, but maybe marriage wasn't ever going to be our thing."

Pink is still struggling to come to terms with their split, adding: "I'm not over it. I love him."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Hannigan, hubby expecting their 1st

FAMILY Actress Alyson Hannigan is pregnant, her rep Megan Moss has told People.

The How I Met Your Mother star, 34, and her husband, actor Alexis Denisof, 42, will welcome their first child this spring, People.com reports.

The couple met on the set of Buffy the Vampire Slayer during the 1999-2000 season and were married at the Two Bunch Palms resort near Palm Springs, Calif., on Oct. 11, 2003.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Friend who set up Guy, Madonna opens up

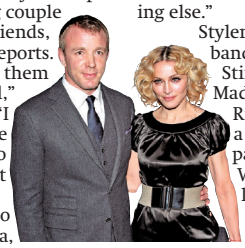
RELATIONSHIPS As the one who originally introduced pop star Madonna to director Guy Ritchie nine years ago, Trudie Styler hopes the divorcing couple will stay friends, People.com reports.

"I wish them both well," Styler said. "I think they're destined to become great pals."

Styler also told Extra, "They're both big enough people to become great friends in time, and I'm sure that they will for the sake of their kids, if nothing else."

Styler and her husband, singer Sting, set up Madonna and Ritchie during a 1999 dinner party at their Wiltshire, England, home.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Hough hospitalized

PEOPLE Julianne Hough has been taken to hospital after suffering abdominal pains backstage on Dancing With the Stars, imdb.com reports.

Professional dancer Hough was taken to Los Angeles Cedars-Sinai Medical Center following her performance on the program Tuesday night.

She had been complaining of stomach pains prior to her appearance, but after her dance with her celebrity partner, actor Cody Linley, an ambulance was called to take her to the hospital, according to TMZ.com.

"She was experiencing slight stomach pains all day that increased and the doctors thought it was best to have them checked out," her representative Cindy Guagenti tells Access Hollywood.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Davis, Mahoney in Treatment
Former Frasier star John Mahoney and actress Hope Davis are the latest additions to the Season 2 cast of In Treatment, starring Gabriel Byrne. **E! NEWS ONLINE**

Celebrity Buzz

HELLO! Hot shot of the week

AWWAR HUSSEIN/GETTY

Prince William, 26, and his younger brother Harry, 24, rev up for a gruelling eight-day, 1,500-kilometre motorcycle trek in Africa to raise money for three causes, including Harry's own charity, Sentebale, which funds community projects in Lesotho. "It's going to be very challenging," said Harry, "and we're expecting to fall off many a time."
HELLO! CANADA magazine, now available on newsstands – read more at hellomagazine.ca

Paris denies texting princes

PEOPLE Paris Hilton has phoned home from London to clear up royal romantic rumours, imdb.com reports.

The socialite called into Ryan Seacrest's radio show in Los Angeles recently to address British tabloid reports she has been caught flirting with Princes William and Harry after meeting the brothers in London.

Hilton told Seacrest she has met with William and Harry, but there's nothing to the rumours, and she's not texting love notes to either of them.

"They're very nice boys, very down to earth and sweet, but there's nothing romantic going on at all," she said. "They just came up and said hello. There's no texting going on; I'm reading that I invited them to Las Vegas to a club — that never happened. I have a boyfriend (rocker Benji Madden) ... I would never say that in a million years and it just annoys me that, particularly the media out in the U.K., they will not only make up stories, they'll also go as far to make up quotes that I supposedly said."

Hilton is in London shooting a British version of her reality show My BFF.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kate may purchase Caribbean getaway

PEOPLE Kate Moss is reportedly planning to buy a Caribbean home to share with her boyfriend Jamie Hince, imdb.com reports.

The couple have enjoyed an on-off relationship, breaking up last month but reuniting soon afterwards.

But despite their rocky relationship, the model reportedly is set to invest in a property in Puerto Rico so she can continue her relationship with the Kills frontman away from prying eyes.

"She wants somewhere very private and reckons she and Jamie could find peace and tranquility on the island," a source tells Britain's the Sun newspaper.

"It will be her special place where she can escape from the limelight," the source added.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Rumours irk Dakota's director

PEOPLE Moviemaker Rowan Woods has denied branding child star Dakota Fanning difficult to work with, insisting the rumours are not true, imdb.com reports.

Woods directed the 14-year-old star in the new film Winged Creatures and was recently reported to have called her a "disaster" on-set over her diva-like behaviour.

But Woods is adamant that he never made the comments and has praised the teenager for her professionalism.

"I am very upset and disappointed on behalf of Dakota that such untruths have spun around the Internet in regards to Dakota and Winged Creatures, and that those opinions be attributed to me. They are not my opinions," Woods writes in a statement to Defamer.com. "Dakota Fanning is an incredible actor and a wonderful person. I am proud to be associated with Dakota's amazing performance."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Did Jennifer pop the question?

GOSSIP Following rumours that newly reunited couple Jennifer Aniston and singer John Mayer are expecting a baby (which her rep has denied), comes this bit of gossip from Star magazine: The actress proposed to the singer.

After a reported barrage of romantic e-mails from him, "she said that she'd only take him back if they got married, and he agreed," says a source. "They both know this is it. She wants to settle down, and finally, so does he. They've even talked about having a family, and John said that he couldn't imagine doing it with anyone but her."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Haysbert top pick as TV president

Actor Dennis Haysbert has been voted Favourite On-Screen President for his portrayal of President David Palmer in the hit action series 24, in a Blockbuster poll. IMDB.COM

A star is born: Palin packs pop appeal

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

A STAR IS BORN No matter who wins the U.S. election in less than two weeks, it's hard to deny that the person who'll be remembered after the voting is over won't be either Barack Obama or John McCain, but McCain's running mate, Sarah Palin.

Palin's campaign has had an electrifying effect on Tina Fey's already hot career, so much so that there are grumbles that her cameo appearances on Saturday Night Live as a Palin impersonator have overshadowed the imminent debut of the new season of 30 Rock, the show that's supposed to be her main gig.

Alec Baldwin, her 30 Rock co-star, even made his own cameo appearance on Saturday Night Live this weekend, the episode that saw Palin's two brief appearances pull in an astounding 14 million viewers, the show's best numbers in 14 years, and likely much higher if you include the many thousands who'll be watching clips of Palin's guest spots online.

In a feature about SNL by the Chicago Tribune's Maureen Ryan, cast member Seth Meyers stated the obvious when he said that "I don't think we'd have the same heat if Mitt Romney had been picked as the vice presidential nominee." Strangely, though, show creator Lorne Michaels insisted to Ryan that the ratings boost were due to the timeliness of Fey/Palin's spots, which have turned the show back into a live viewing event.

"The timeliness of Fey/Palin's spots ... have turned the show back into a live viewing event."

It's an odd assertion to make in light of the viral success of the skits online, where the upsurge in live ratings has been more than matched by downloads of streaming video from NBC's site and other web sources — 13 million confirmed downloads from NBC's servers alone of Fey's first appearance as Palin this fall, according to an Associated Press story, in addition to an estimated 1.2 million delayed views on PVRs after the airing.

"It's not the only sign this fall of how the typical habits of watching TV," wrote David Bauder of AP, "making an appointment with your easy chair at a given time each night — are rapidly becoming obsolete."

In a Newsweek piece last weekend, it was even suggested that Palin's success can be tied to shows set in the governor's home state of Alaska — programs such as Discovery's Deadliest Catch and Toughest Race On Earth: Iditarod, as well as History's Tougher In Alaska.

The New York Times even went so far as to damn Palin with faint praise, lauding her for her "engaging, relaxed" spot on SNL, and suggesting that if things don't turn out that well on Nov. 4, Palin might do a reverse Reagan and "someday host her own television show."

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

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CTV

Actors perform in a scene from Degrassi: The Next Generation.

TO	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 10/23/08	265	353	2	TVO	Mighty Movers		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		London Hospital (N)		Masterworks (N)		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Survivor: Gabon (N)		The Office (N)	SNL Update	(10:01) Life on Mars		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Ill	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Nature of Things (N)		Doc Zone (HDTV) (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Ugly Betty (N)		Glam God With Vivica A. Fox		Friends	Friends	News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Dance	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Grey's Anatomy (N)		ER "Parental Guidance"		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)	*Thrill of the Kill* (2006, Suspense) Shiri Appleby.				News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		Météo	Aventures	*Au Hasard Balthazar* ★★★ (1966, Drame) Anne Wiazemsky.				Volt
	-	-	14	-	Cold Case		News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Smallville "Prey" (N)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Survivor: Gabon (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(10:01) Eleventh Hour		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)	The Office (N)	SNL Update	ER "Parental Guidance"		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ugly Betty (N)		Grey's Anatomy (N)		(10:01) Life on Mars		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Robson Arms	TMZ (N)	Medium (N)		America's Next Top Model		(10:01) Eleventh Hour		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	MLB Baseball World Series Game 2 -- Philadelphia Phillies at Tampa Bay Rays.						The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Goodnight Swt.	American Experience Jimmy Carter captured the White House in 1976. (DVS)						Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Smallville "Prey" (N)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smallville
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour Phil Town.		CBC News: The National		Hobbit Enigma (N)		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		CNN Election Center		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Wall Street Crisis: Is Your Money Safe?				On the Money		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	Sportsnet Con.	MLB Pregame	MLB Baseball World Series Game 2 -- Philadelphia Phillies at Tampa Bay Rays. (HDTV) (Live)						
	400	400	30	TSN	NHL Hockey Toronto Maple Leafs at Boston Bruins. (HDTV) (Live)					NHL Hockey Edmonton Oilers at Colorado Avalanche.			
	411	457	58	OLN	Ed's Up	Videos	Commando: On the Front Line		Survivorman		Pilot Guides Specials		Pilot Guides
	417	406	81	SC	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out		Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)		Wrecked (N)	Wrecked	Pinks
family	551	542	25	YTV	H2O, Just Add	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline Proj	Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Planet Sketch	Ghosts-Scooby	Ghosts-Scooby	6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	The Critic	Robot Chicken	Code Monkeys
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Divine Design	Real Est	Love It-List It
	570	580	29	MM	Greek		Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Degrassi: Next	Instant Star	Greek		Muchmsc Ctdn
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		Jacked: Theft	Jacked: Theft	The Rookies
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	*Umberto D* ★★★★ (1952, Docudrama) Carlo Battisti.				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Back In	Spice Girls-Giving		Revival	Where You At	I Want to Work for Diddy		Party of Five
	575	583	38	CMT	Tara Diaries	The Wilkinsons	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Gone Country
	616	521	39	SHO	Painkiller Jane		ReGenesis (HDTV)		Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Saving Grace (HDTV)		House
	620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives		Camera	In the Mind ...	*Liberty Stands Still* (2002, Suspense)			Bravonews	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	End of Leash	ET Canada	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		X-Weighted		The Biggest Loser		Rich Poor
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "UnSEALed"		Lost Worlds		Submarine: Mission Imp.		NCIS "UnSEALed"		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	VIP	Choc. News	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes on Homes		The Fix	Disaster DIY	Home to Flip	Real Renos (N)	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Steve Harvey	Family Guy	Family Guy
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	Hip-Hop '08	Hip-Hop Awards '08 Top hip-hop artists are honored. (N)				American Gangster (N)		Somebodies
	627	528	50	SPC	Lost "Orientation"		Star Trek: Voyager		Battlestar Galactica		Chuck (N)		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Busted	After	MTV News	Cribs	EMA	Exiled	True Life		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210		Make or Break	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier	Family Guy
	603	561	56	FOOD	The Main	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Jamie's Kitchen Australia		Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Wait for God	Keeping Up	*Dave* ★★★ (1993, Comedy) Kevin Kline, Frank Langella.				Emily-Moon
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Look-A-Like	In Fashion	The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Nght Grdn	Toot & Puddle	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Big Comfy	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears
	115	711	101	TVA	La Fièvre de la danse (SC)		Occupation double			Vlog (SC)	TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct sur l'économie		Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	CLT	Judging Amy		*Getting Married in Buffalo Jump* ★★ (1989), Paul Gross				Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy
	300	601	301	M1	(7:15) *The Last Door* (2004, Drama) Andy Garcia.				*In the Valley of Elah* ★★★ (2007, Drama), Jason Patric				*Factory Girl*
	305	612	306	PIX	(7:15) *Death of a Gunfighter* ★★ (1969, Western)				*Blow* ★★ (2001, Drama) Johnny Depp, Penélope Cruz.				*Felicia's Jrny.*

critics' corner

The Nature of Things
Who wouldn't love his or her own R2-D2 or Rosie from "The Jetsons"? This new episode, "Rodney's Robot Revolution," profiles Rodney Brooks, a professor and expert on artificial intelligence who's on a mission to create a personal robot that ordinary people can actually afford. Brooks believes the human brain and body are machines. And humans know how to build machines, so what's to stop us from building smart ones? David Suzuki hosts. 8 PM on CBC

Ugly Betty
Star wattage returns! Kimmie Keegan (guest star Lindsay Lohan) asks for Betty's (America Ferrera) help in finding a job at Mode even though employment is not especially high on her list of priorities. Daniel (Eric Mabius) decides to try a professional matchmaking service with surprising results — especially when you consider the fascinating traits of his "perfect" match. Meanwhile, Justin (Mark Indelicato) auditions for a Broadway musical. 8 PM on ABC CITY

Teen drama, ghouls and chickens top Geminis

AWARDS Degrassi: The Next Generation, Ghost Trackers and Chef School were among the winners Tuesday at the Gemini Awards honouring the best in lifestyle, children's and youth programs.

CTV's teen soap opera Degrassi took the title of best children's or youth fiction program or series, while the YTV paranormal show Ghost Trackers won in the non-fiction category.

The Food Network reality show Chef School won for best lifestyle/practical information series, and Teletoon's Chop Socky Chooks — a Canada/U.K. co-production about a crime-fighting team of kung-fu chickens — was named best animated program or series.

YTV's animated show Will & Dewitt took the title of best preschool program or series.

Yesterday's bash was the second in a three-night series of galas to recognize the best in Canadian television. Trophies for news, documentary and sports coverage were handed out Monday, while drama, variety and comedy shows were set to be honoured yesterday.

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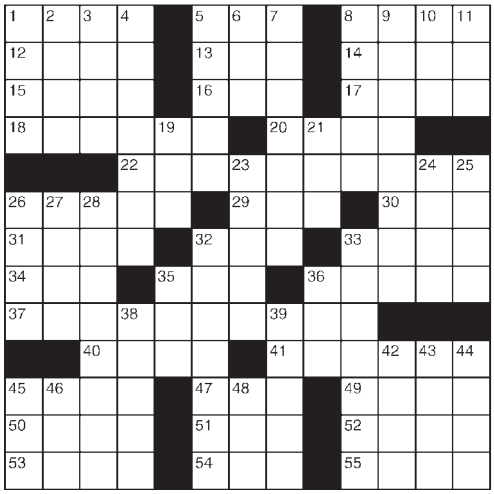

Crossword across

1 Long cut
5 Scrooge's cry
8 Treaty
12 Ready for the picking
13 Leading lady?
14 Perjurer
15 Concept
16 Author Fleming
17 Set of "Risk" tokens
18 Mark over a long vowel
20 Catnap
22 Trophy wife's partner
26 Speak like 51-Across
29 Central
30 100 square meters
31 Unctuous
32 Carton
33 Circulate
34 Praiseful poem
35 Entertainment
36 Horn noises
37 Britney and Christina, e.g.
40 Suspended
41 Spoof
45 Bridge
47 Part of UCLA
49 Responsibility
50 Teller's partner
51 Farm female
52 Elevator man
53 Bohemian
54 Gender
55 Zilch

Crossword down

1 Gloomy
2 Verdi opera
3 Detail, for short
4 Inadmissible testimony of a sort
5 Existence
6 Ms. Gardner
7 Woodstock headliner
8 Shopping center
9 Black-and-tan terrier
10 Rotating part
11 Attempt
19 Chic no more
21 Peculiar
23 Surrounded by
24 Let fall
25 Some evergreens
26 Not-so-ugly Betty
27 Beach resort
28 GOP symbol
32 Messes up
33 Decorate
35 Half a sawbuck
36 Support system?
38 Optimistic
39 New Jersey county
42 Digging
43 Destruction
44 Latin 5-Down
45 Masseur's workplace
46 Apiece
48 Have bills

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

8			7					
9		5		2	4			8
	6	7	1					
						3	9	
7		2				1		6
	5	8						
					1	5	4	
1			9	3		2		7
					2			9

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

7	8	9	5	4	3	1	2	6
1	2	5	7	9	6	8	3	4
6	4	3	8	2	1	9	7	5
3	6	2	9	8	4	7	5	1
5	9	7	1	3	2	6	4	8
8	1	4	6	5	7	2	9	3
2	7	8	3	6	5	4	1	9
9	3	1	4	7	8	5	6	2
4	5	6	2	1	9	3	8	7

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Recipe of the day

Piquant Pasta and Tuna Salad

INGREDIENTS:

8 oz (250 g) pasta twists or spirals, such as cavatappi, fusilli or rotini
2 tbsp (25 mL) olive oil
1 onion, chopped
1 garlic clove, chopped
2 zucchini, thinly sliced
2 tsp (10 mL) sugar
2 tbsp (25 mL) commercially prepared red or green pesto sauce
1 tbsp (15 mL) white or red wine vinegar
1 tbsp (15 mL) capers
6 tomatoes, halved and cut into thin wedges
1 can (6 oz/170 g) water-packed solid white tuna, drained and roughly flaked
6 black olives, pitted and halved
Garnish: Fresh flat-leaf parsley

METHOD:

1. Cook pasta according to package instructions, until al dente. Drain well, rinse with cold water, and drain again.
2. While pasta is cooking, heat 1 tbsp (15 mL) oil in a saucepan. Add onion and garlic, and sauté for 3 minutes, stirring often. Add remaining oil and zucchini and cook, stirring occasionally, for 3 minutes.
3. Add sugar, pesto, vinegar and capers to onion and zucchini. Heat for a few seconds, stirring until ingredients have combined to form a dressing. Stir in tomatoes, then transfer the mixture to large mixing bowl and set aside to cool.
4. Add drained pasta to the bowl. Gently mix in tuna and olives. Serve garnished with flat-leaf parsley leaves, if desired.

SERVES 4

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Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Someone cares deeply for you. A clever female makes the rounds. Giving special treatment to someone will become important.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You can help others fulfil their ambitions. Avoid alienating a brilliant leader. Fine people will create turmoil by the book.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Provide a rational explanation for a rebellious deed. Get somebody involved to facilitate a change. Look forward to fun and laughter.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Seize the moment to admit you were wrong. A mild-mannered male wants to tell the truth. A miraculous attitude change inspires rewards at work.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Prepare to take action when confronted. Identify those who will stand with you in bad times. A poverty-stricken man makes a vague request.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Someone's cynicism becomes apparent. Examine things that make you anxious. Congratulate a geeky man for persisting.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Prepare to learn more about a critical person. Get rid of conflict by following the rules. A colleague has a dispute about a plan.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Research is hindered by private stuff behind the scenes. A reluctant person is an authority at work. A fool has to talk about ending a state of affairs.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Someone's gaze is more than you can bear. Certain dangerous things don't appeal to you. A young man makes time for happy news.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Be thankful for a friend's hard luck. Don't underestimate the ingenuity of a woman. A newcomer has a good reason to celebrate.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A mystery is solved when a phenomenon occurs. Concerned friends may not complain of poor treatment. Don't convince a friend he's wrong.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Bondage to an outworn fantasy begins to ease. Get your paperwork done before a playful encounter. An impatient man looks for the source of a problem.

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Limited 7-Passenger model shown

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